



United States Department of the Interior

BUREAU OF LAND MANAGEMENT

Battle Mountain District Office
50 Bastian Road
P.O. Box 1420
Battle Mountain, NV 89820

IN REPLY REFER TO:

4160/4700
N6-94-17
(NV-060)

AUG - 5 1994

Memorandum

To: Interior Board of Land Appeals, Arlington, Virginia

From: District Manager, Battle Mountain

Subject: Transmittal of an Appeal, numbered N6-94-17, to the Wild Horse portion of the May 18, 1994, Area Manager's Final Multiple Use Decision for the Willow Ranch Allotment by Wild Horse Organized Assistance (WHOA).

Attached is the subject appeal file containing the administrative record and responses to the appeal points for the subject appeal.

Also contained in this appeal file are the following documents:

1. Grazing Appeal Transmittal, dated August 5, 1994.
2. Notice of Appeal, dated June 27, 1994, received in the Battle Mountain District Office on June 29, 1994.
3. Notice of Area Manager's Final Multiple Use Decision for the Willow Ranch Allotment, dated May 18, 1994.

Other appeals were received on this same decision. A listing of the appeals received in the Battle Mountain District Office to date are shown on the following table:

Appeals to Office of Hearings and Appeals		Appeals to Interior Board of Land Appeals	
Nev. Appeal No.	Appellant - (Issue)	Nev. Appeal No.	Appellant - (Issue)
N6-94-4	Metropolitan Life Insurance Company (Livestock)	N6-94-5	Metropolitan Life Insurance Company (Wild Horses)
N6-94-16	WHOA (Livestock)	N6-94-17	WHOA (Wild Horses)

Please note that we are requesting this appeal be remanded to the Administrative Law Judge for the purpose of one consolidated factual hearing regarding the various appeals of the livestock, wild horse and wildlife portions of this Multiple Use Decision.

*Michael E. Smithel
Acting*

Attachments
As Listed Above

cc: Regional Solicitor, Sacramento
NV-930/960
Wild Horse Organized Assistance

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
BUREAU OF LAND MANAGEMENT
Battle Mountain District
P.O. Box 1420
Battle Mountain, Nevada 89820

In reply refer to
(4160)N6-94-16/17
(NV-060)

AUG - 5 1994

Memorandum

To : State Director, Nevada (NV-931.1)
From : District Manager, Battle Mountain
Subject : Transmittal of Administrative Record
Appeal No. N6-94-16 (Livestock) and Appeal No. N6-94-17 (Wild Horses) from Wild Horse Organized Assistance (WHOA) - Willow Ranch Allotment.

Attached please find the administrative record concerning the subject appeals from WHOA as they relate to the Final Multiple Use Decision for the Willow Ranch Allotment. Contained within the administrative record is: 1) The report describing the chronological narrative of the events and actions that led to the appeal 2) the area manager's Final Multiple Use Decision, 3) the appeal of the area manager's Final Multiple Use Decision, 4) Grazing Appeal Transmittal Form (1850-2), and other pertinent documents. Three copies of the appeal file are attached. We have kept a copy of the Administrative Record at the District for our records. We have transmitted a copy of Appeal No. N6-94-17 (Wild Horses) to the Interior Board of Land Appeals and sent a copy to the appellant.

Appeal points 1, 2 pertain to wild horses. We have made a request to IBLA to remand this case to an Administrative Law Judge for a consolidated hearing with the livestock portion of the decision.

The above information is sent for your review and processing. If you have any questions concerning this transmittal please contact Jeff Weeks of my staff at (702)635-4000.

Attachments
as stated

Michael E. Mitchell
Acting

UNITED STATES
DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
BUREAU OF LAND MANAGEMENT

GRAZING APPEAL TRANSMITTAL

TO:

State Director: Nevada

The appeal identified herein has been filed and is forwarded to you, together with copies of the pertinent District Office records, for action and transmittal to an Administrative Law Judge in accordance with 43 CFR 4.470.

1. Name(s) of appellant(s)

Wild Horse Organized Assistance

N6-94-16 (Livestock)
N6-94-17 (Wild Horses)

2. Appeal was filed (date)

6/27/94

3. Decision appealed from was served on appellant(s)
(date)

5/27/94

4a. I do not recommend that a motion to dismiss the appeal be filed

b. I recommend that motion to dismiss the appeal be filed. I am submitting my recommendations in a separate memorandum to you

5. Recommendations as to approximate time for hearing (specify week or month) February 1995

a. Preferred time * 2/1/95

b. Alternative acceptable time 2/3/95

* If preferred time is more than 90 days hence, give reasons under "Remarks" item 8.

6. Estimated time (in days) hearing will require

1 day

7. Approximate number of other range users who may request to intervene

4

8. Remarks (See item 5 above; also include any other information helpful to the Administrative Law Judge in making his arrangements for the hearing; continue on reverse side, if necessary)

Appeal numbers N6-94-4, 12, 16, 20 should be consolidated for a hearing. For convenience the consolidated hearings should be held in Reno. These cases are appeals of the Final Multiple Use Decision for the Willow Ranch Allotment.

Battle Mountain District

8/5/94
(Date)



(Signature of Authorized Officer)

Copy to: Office of Hearings and Appeals, Salt Lake City, Utah
Director, (220) Washington, D.C.

Forward with this transmittal: (1) related grazing application(s); and (2) Authorized Officer's final decision on application(s) with evidence of service upon the applicant(s).

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
BUREAU OF LAND MANAGEMENT
Battle Mountain District
P.O. Box 1420
Battle Mountain, Nevada 89820

In Reply refer to:
4160/N6-94-16,17
(NV-064.10)

AUG - 5 1994

Memorandum

To: State Director (NV-931)

From: District Manager, Battle Mountain

Subject: Report of Appeal No. N6-94-16 (Livestock)
Report of Appeal No. N6-94-17 (Wild Horses)
{Wild Horse Organized Assistance (WHOA) - Willow Ranch}

I. CHRONOLOGICAL NARRATIVE

On August 04, 1993, the Draft Allotment Evaluation for the Willow Ranch Allotment was finished and issued by the Shoshone-Eureka Resource Area Office (Ref. 7). The purpose of this evaluation was to identify existing/continuing problems and issues concerning grazing management in the Willow Ranch Allotment, and to provide recommendations for resolving those problems. The evaluation assessed progress in meeting the Land Use Plan objectives established by the Record of Decision for the Shoshone-Eureka Environmental Impact Statement and Resource Management Plan (RMP) issued November 6, 1987. The Rangeland Program Summary (RPS) issued in December, 1988 further specified objectives for the Willow Ranch Allotment. The draft evaluation was received on August 27, 1993 by WHOA as evidenced on the proof of service. On September 14, 1994 a public meeting was held in the Bureau of Land Management Battle Mountain District Conference Room (Ref. 7). Neither the permittee nor any affected interest groups attended the meeting. On January 11, 1994, the Shoshone-Eureka Resource Area completed the Final Evaluation Summary (Ref. 6), and the Management Action Selection Report (Ref. 5). The Management Action selection Report (MASR) choose the recommendation of the Willow Ranch Allotment Evaluation to reduce cattle grazing use in the allotment by 32.5% or 1,749 AUMs. The MASR also selected the change in the season of use from April 16 through December 31 to May 01 through December 31.

A Proposed Decision (Ref. 4) detailing the method to implement the action recommended was issued by the Shoshone-Eureka Area Manager on January 11, 1994. The Proposed Decision was received on January 24, 1994 by WHOA as evidenced on the proof of service.

Protests were received from Russell Ranches and Metropolitan Life. WHOA did not comment or protest on the Proposed Multiple Use Decision. The Shoshone-Eureka Area Manager considered the points of protest. The Shoshone-Eureka Area Manager responded to the protests by inviting WHOA and other affected interests to a field tour on April 13, 1994 to discuss protest points and allotment management. WHOA received the tour invitation letter on March 15, 1994 as evidenced by the proof of service (Ref. 3). The field tour of the Willow Ranch Allotment on April 13, 1994 was not attended by representatives of WHOA (Ref. 3). Another meeting was held on April 22, 1994 with representatives of Russell Ranches (Dave Ward, Tom Van Horne, and consultant Chuck Saulisberry) to discuss allotment management and the final decision. Several items were discussed at this meeting and it ended with Mr. Van Horne stating that a plan would be forthcoming by May 10, 1994. Mr. Van Horne requested a time extension until May 17, 1994. No plan was forthcoming at that time, so the Final Decision was issued on May 18, 1994.

II. AREA MANAGER'S FINAL MULTIPLE USE DECISION

The final multiple use decision was issued by the Shoshone-Eureka Area Manager on May 18, 1994 (Ref. 2) in accordance with 43 CFR 4160.3 (b). The final decision was received by WHOA on May 27, 1994 as evidenced by proof of service (Ref. 3). On the basis of input received after issuing the proposed decision and input received during the allotment tour, the final decision revised the season of use by allowing 14 days of use in January, and changing the seeding utilization level from 50% to 60% by end of the grazing year.

This action was in accordance with Title 43 Code of Federal Regulations, (CFR) specifically:

§4100.0-8: "The authorized officer shall manage livestock grazing on public lands under the principle of multiple use and sustained yield, and in accordance with applicable land use plans. Land use plans shall establish allowable resource uses (either singly or in combination), related levels of production or use to be maintained, areas of use and resource condition goals and objectives to be obtained. The plans also set forth program constraints and general management practices needed to achieve management objectives. Livestock grazing activities and management actions approved by the authorized officer shall be in conformance with the land use plan as defined at 43 CFR 1601.0-5(b)."

§4110.3: "The authorized officer shall periodically review the grazing preference specified in a grazing lease and may make changes in the grazing preference status. These changes shall be supported by monitoring, as evidenced by rangeland studies conducted over time, unless the change is either specified in an applicable land use plan or necessary to manage, maintain or improve rangeland productivity."

§4110.3-2(b): "When monitoring shows active use is causing an unacceptable level or pattern of utilization or exceeds the livestock carrying capacity as determined through monitoring, the authorized officer shall reduce active use if necessary to maintain or improve rangeland productivity, unless the authorized officer determines a change in management practices would achieve the management objectives."

§4110.3-2(c): "Where active use is reduced it shall be held in suspension or in nonuse for conservation/protection purposes, until the authorized officer determines that active use may resume."

§4110.3-3(a): "Changes in active use in excess of 10 percent shall be implemented over a 5-year period, unless after consultation with the affected permittees or lessees and other affected interests, an agreement is reached to implement the increase or decrease in less than 5 years."

§4110.3-3(b): "After consultation, coordination and cooperation, suspensions of preference shall be implemented through a documented agreement or by decision. If data acceptable to the authorized officer are available, an initial reduction shall be taken on the effective date of the agreement or decision and the balance taken in the third and fifth years following that effective date, except as provided in paragraph (a) of this section. If data acceptable to the authorized officer to support an initial reduction are not available, additional data will be collected through monitoring. Adjustments based on the additional data shall be implemented by agreement or decision that will initiate the 5-year implementation period."

§4130.6: "Livestock grazing permits and leases shall contain terms and conditions necessary to achieve the management objectives for the public lands and other lands under Bureau of Land Management administration."

§4130.6-1(a): "The authorized officer shall specify the kind and number of livestock, the period(s) of use, the allotment(s) to be used, and the amount of use, in animal unit months, for every grazing permit or lease. the authorized livestock grazing use shall not exceed the livestock carrying capacity as determined through monitoring and adjusted as necessary under 4110.3, 4110.3-1 and 4110.3-2."

§4130.6-2: "The authorized officer may specify in grazing permits and leases other terms and conditions which will assist in achieving management objectives, provide for proper range management or assist in the orderly administration of the public rangelands..."

§4700.0-6 (a): "Wild horses and burros shall be managed as self-sustaining populations of healthy animals in balance with other uses and the production capacity of their habitat."

§4700.0-6 (d): "In administering these regulations, the authorized officer shall consult with Federal and State wildlife agencies and all other affected interests, to involve them in planning for and management of wild horses and burros on the public lands."

§4710.1 "Management activities affecting wild horses and burros, including the establishment of herd management areas, shall be in accordance with approved land use plans prepared pursuant to part 1600 of this title."

§4710.3-1. "Herd management areas shall be established for the maintenance of wild horse and burro herds. In delineating each herd management area, the authorized officer shall consider the appropriate management level for the herd, the habitat requirements of the animals, the relationships with other uses of the public and adjacent private lands, and the constraints contained in 4710.4. The authorized officer shall prepare a herd management area plan, which may cover one or more herd management areas."

III. APPEAL AND BLM RESPONSES TO ALLEGATIONS THEREIN

WHOA's timely appeal post-marked on June 27, 1994 of the final decision (Ref. 1) was received by the Shoshone-Eureka Resource Area Office on June 30, 1994. The appeal contains two (2) points which will be addressed below in the order they were presented.

The Decision is Arbitrary and Biased Against Wild Horses and Contrary to the Land Use Plan

Response: The FMUD is neither arbitrary nor biased against wild horses; it is not contrary to the Land Use Plan. The appropriate management level AML for wild horses in the allotment was determined through Bureau methodologies as outlined in Bureau technical references during the evaluation of the monitoring data. Horses are managed as wild and free roaming animals and census and vegetation data were collected according to standard Bureau methods to ultimately determine the AML. The removal of wild horses is unauthorized if the AML "has been established for administrative reasons, rather than in terms of the optimum number which results in a thriving natural ecological balance and avoids a deterioration of the

range." Animal Protection Institute of America, 109 IBLA at 119. Furthermore, "a determination that removal of wild horses is warranted must be based on research and analysis and on monitoring programs involving studies of grazing utilization, actual use, and climatic factors." Animal Protection Institute of America, 118 IBLA 20, 21 (1991); see also, Craig C. Downer, 111 IBLA at 336-337.

The FMUD is not contrary to the Land Use Plan. The decision to determine appropriate levels of livestock and wild horses is consistent with the Land Use Plan Amendment and Record of Decision issued November 6, 1987 which states on page 2 under Livestock Grazing Short-Term Management Actions #2:

"Actions could include, but will not be limited to, change in seasons-of-use, implementation of deferment and rest rotation grazing systems, change in livestock numbers, correction of livestock distribution problems, adjust the number of wild horses, and development of range improvements. Specific measures to improve wildlife habitat could include, but will not be limited to, restricting livestock use along streams to late summer or fall, limiting grazing use on riparian areas to moderate levels, fencing meadows and stream corridors, limiting grazing use on bitterbrush to moderate levels by winter in crucial mule deer winter range, constructing wildlife guzzlers for water, and planting desirable shrub and forb species in vegetation manipulation projects."

The Carrying Capacity Established in this Decision will exceed the Carrying Capacity of the Allotment, Abuse of Weighted Averaging to Provide Additional "False" AUM's

Response: The Weighted Average method used to calculate carrying capacity for the Willow Ranch Allotment is consistent with the Bureau of Land Management Rangeland Monitoring Analysis, Interpretation and Evaluation Technical Reference 4400-7. (November 1985)

The Final Evaluation determined that there is a carrying capacity of 3,876 AUMS on the Willow Ranch allotment. The reduction was applied solely to livestock because wildlife and wild horses did not significantly contribute to the over-utilization in the allotment. The Bureau is required to reduce livestock AUMS from active preference per §4110.3-2 (b). The Bureau will continue to monitor and will adjust seasons of livestock use and numbers as well as wild horse numbers as the data indicates.

The North Monitor HMA is managed by the U.S. Forest Service in conjunction with the Kelly Creek Territory (see page 4 of final evaluation, item 7). These animals move freely between the two areas since their movement is not impeded by a fence. The largest number of wild horses sighted within the Willow Ranch Allotment portion of the territory is 8 head (96 AUMs). The monitoring data and evaluation show that a thriving natural ecological balance will be achieved by maintaining the population of wild horses at 8 head. No reduction of wild horses within the allotment is planned.

The Final Multiple Use Decision for the Willow Ranch Allotment was issued in accordance with the Code of Federal Regulations at §4120.3-3 (a):

"Changes in active use in excess of 10 percent shall be implemented over a 5-year period, unless after consultation with the affected permittees or lessees and other affected interests, an agreement is reached to implement the increase or decrease in less than 5 years."

The Bureau of Land Management has issued and implemented Full Force and Effect decisions to close the Wood's and Grimes seedings to all livestock grazing for a period of two years or until forage production and plant vigor are re-established. The Bureau feels that with the seeding closures, the change in season of use and the rest rotation grazing schedule that the final multiple use decisions did not need to be placed in Full Force and Effect.

IV. SUMMARY

The major point of this appeal relates to the analysis and interpretation of the monitoring data for the Willow Ranch Allotment as it relates to wild horses. Additional points relate to wild horse and multiple use decision policies.

V. RECOMMENDATION

This appeal should go before an Administrative Law Judge for a decision.

*Michael Mitchell
Director*

WHOA

WILD HORSE ORGANIZED ASSISTANCE
P.O. BOX 555
RENO, NEVADA 89504

RECEIVED
1994 JUN 29 AM 2:58

... a note from



Dawn Y. Lappin

June 27, 1994

Wayne King, Area Manager
Shoshone-Eureka Resource Area
50 Bastian Road
Box 1420
Battle Mountain, Nevada 89820

RE: Notice of Intent to Appeal the Final Multiple Use Decision for the Willow Ranch Allotment

Dear Mr. King,

We appreciate the opportunity to review and comment on the final MUD for the Willow Ranch Allotment. This letter constitutes our formal notification to you that we are appealing your decision which will include the issues listed below. Our detailed appeal will follow within 30 days which is allowed by law to be filed with the Interior Board of Land.

We believe your final decision does not adequately protect the habitat from further and continued degradation.

The Decision is Arbitrary and Biased Against Wild Horses and Contrary to the Land Use Plan

Initially the LUP objectives identified 2,924 AUM's for livestock and 300 AUM's for horses. As stated in our previous comments on this allotment, we are wondering how, over the years, did livestock increase two-fold to 5,370 active preference and wild horses decrease by 66%. As is normally the case, if a decrease is to be taken, all users share the decrease proportionately as well as if an increase in AUM's is available that all users would share the increase proportionately. The LUP initially allocated 9% of the forage to wild horses and 91% to livestock. At the time the LUP identified the 91/9% as being the appropriate percent allocation of forage to attain a thriving natural ecological balance. Your decision to reduce the allocation to wild horses from 300 AUM's to 96 AUM's and increased livestock. Since issuance of the RMP 3/86 and subsequent RMP Amendment 11/87 the permittee has run in excess of the AUM's identified in the LUP's as the short and long term management objectives of 2,924 AUM's. The AUM's ranged to a high of 4,756 to the average of 3,858 AUM's which were still above the

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1994 JUN 29 PM 2:58

Wayne King, Area Manager
June 27, 1994
Page 2

initial objective of 2,924 identified in the LUP. The MUD changes the allocation of forage increasing livestock from 91% of the forage to 97.4% and further decrease wild horses from 9% to 2.6%. In addition your final decision actually still has the livestock increased from the LUP allocation in excess of 697 AUM's. This is not consistent with the LUP unless you can document why the initial percentage allocated is in error and in need of change. You have traded wild horse AUM's to livestock to allow a higher percentage of AUM's to be allocated to livestock, in essence taking from Peter to pay Paul. You have replaced livestock AUM's with wild horse AUM's. In conclusion, your decision is arbitrary, biased, and not consistent with the LUP.

The Carrying Capacity Established in this Decision will exceed the Carrying Capacity of the Allotment, Abuse of Weighted Averaging to Provide Additional "False" AUM's

Use of weighted averaging with non consistency of habitat is not consistent with the Rangeland Monitoring handbook. With the severe usage over the years and using weighted averaging your District is softening the abuse of the habitat.

In order to achieve a thriving natural ecological balance the appropriate management level and actual use by livestock must be determined by use of monitoring and actual use data collected within the term of the evaluation period. This data established the carrying capacity for this allotment. Allocation of available forage must be proportional to livestock, wild horses, and wildlife and supported by sound rationale. Monitoring data is the basis for all multiple use decisions. Actual use data for livestock and wild horses collected for the allotment evaluation is the best data available to support the multiple use decision. Since livestock contributed 97.4% of the use, it is reasonable that livestock should bear the same percentage of the necessary reduction to meet carrying capacity of the allotment. This reduction must come from actual use, the same as for horses, since that is what you monitor for, not from paper cows which you don't monitor for. Therefore, the reduction in active use should be proportional to the amount of damage caused by each user.

It is impossible for me to calculate average actual use by horses since that information has not been provided in the AE. No census and distribution data has been supplied as well even if any flights or monitoring for horses has been done. However, your District is stating 96 AUM's of use by horses.

Any reduction in the existing wild horse herd (ie: provide census and distribution data to substantiate actual use by horses), should be limited to 2.6% of the necessary adjustment and livestock should be allocated 97.4% of the reduction.

The Final Decision is issued under the authority of Title 43 of the Code of Federal Regulations. According to the Final Decision page 10, 43 CFR 4130.6-1(a): "The authorized livestock

Wayne King, Area Manager

June 27, 1994

Page 3

grazing use shall not exceed the livestock carrying capacity as determined through monitoring and adjusted as necessary under 4110.3, 4110.3-1, and 4110.3-2." This decision should be placed in full force and effect to reduce the liability to the habitat in waiting 5 years to affect the reduction. By the Districts removal from paper cows in lieu of actual cows it remains impossible and in violation of 43 CFR in keeping the habitat within stated carrying capacity.

The North Monitor HMA is out there, the Willow Ranch Allotment is only a portion of the HMA. It is of no consequence to us whether there are 10 or 50 allotments in it, but if the data cannot be compiled in coordination with the other Forest Service areas, Resource Areas or District Offices, then this piecemeal management of the North Monitor HMA is badly failing the protection of the wild horses and their habitat. I submit instead the agency, whether one District or two, one Resource Area or two, get together, Forest Service included, compile the data; and make a decision based upon sound resource data and current population census and distribution data. This would provide the best possible evaluation and decisions that are best for the habitat multiple use of the resources.

In conclusion, we are confused and frustrated as to why we must continually file the same appeal points or have the same fruitless discussion with the Battle Mountain District. All we ask is that you follow the Rules, Regulations, and Policy that has been established as your guidance in the management of the public lands. We did not create those mandates but fully support their intent and direction towards sound range management for the benefit of the concept of multiple use of the nations public's rangelands.

WHOA received this MUD on May 27, 1994, as evidenced by the return receipt. WHOA is filing this appeal within the 30 day time frame allowed by law. Prior to this appeal being filed with the IBLA we would hope that we could meet with either you and/or your staff to discuss our concerns in an attempt to resolve these conflicts and avoid having to add to the already overloaded schedule of that Appeals Board.

If you have any questions or would like to discuss our concerns, please feel free to call.

Sincerely,



DAWN LARFIN
Director

RECEIVED
BUREAU OF LAND MANAGEMENT
1994 JUN 29 PM 2:58
DANIEL HARRIS

4400.3
(NV-064.18)

Dear Interested Party:

Please find enclosed the Final Multiple Use Decision (FMUD) for the Willow Ranch Allotment, the Full Force and Effect Final Multiple Use Decision for the Fish Creek Ranch Allotment, the Draft Fish Creek Ranch Allotment Wild Horse Removal Plan, and Form 1842-1 (Information On Taking Appeals To The Board Of Land Appeals). Also enclosed are the field tour notes from both the Fish Creek Ranch and Willow Ranch Allotment tours, which were held in response to the protests of the Proposed Fish Creek Ranch and Willow Ranch Allotment Multiple Use Decisions. These allotments are within the Battle Mountain District, Bureau of Land Mangement, Shoshone/Eureka Resource Area, Battle Mountain, Nevada. Please review the documents and address any questions or comments to either Floyd Thompson or Rick Oyler at (702) 635-4000.

Sincerely,

Wayne King
Area Manager

Enclosures as stated

CC: BLM, Egan Resource Area	P 870 696 136
Animal Protection Instit. of America	P 870 696 247
USDI - Fish & Wildlife Service	P 870 696 275
Wild Horse Organized Assistance	P 870 696 374
Commission For The Preservation of Wild Horses and Burros	P 870 696 249
Olden, Mary E.; Esq.; Sanwa Bank	P 870 696 110
Van Horne, Thomas S.	P 870 696 109
Intermountain Federal Land Bank Assoc. Sierra/Nevada Production Credit Assoc.	P 870 696 246
Bank of America National Trust & Savings Assoc. Mid-Valley Corporate/Agribusiness Banking Group	P 870 696 129
Stratman, John; Metropolitan Life Insurance	P 870 696 128
Traveler's Insurance Company	P 870 696 127
Morgan, Lewis & Bockius	P 870 696 112
Cooper & Smith	P 870 696 111
International Society for the Protection of Mustangs and Burros	P 870 696 268
Blake, Michael	P 870 696 270

Jewell, Paula R.; The Humane Society of U.S.	P 870 696 114
Wilkins, Gloria; Georgia Earth Alliance	P 870 696 121
Busselman, Doug; Nevada Farm Bureau	P 870 696 113
Sorenson, Rick	P 870 696 124
Mauer, Anthony L.; Mauer-Shumaker, Inc.	P 870 696 126
Satterthwaite, Deloyd; Ellison Ranching Co.	P 870 696 123
Tipton, Tony; Carter Ranch	P 870 696 122
Erickson, Duane; Nevada Dept. of Wildlife	P 870 696 273
Podborny, Mike; Nevada Dept. of Wildlife	P 870 696 271
Larralde, Martin; Larralde Sheep Co.	P 870 696 137
County of Nye; County Commissioners	P 870 696 266
Toiyabe National Forest, Austin Ranger Dist.	P 870 696 269
Ballew, Tom; Nevada State Dept. of Agriculture	P 870 696 248
Strickland, Rose; Public Lands Committee	P 870 696 373
Nevada Cattleman's Association	P 870 696 274
Wald, Johanna H.; Natural Resource Defense Counc.	P 870 696 272
McLain, John; Resource Concepts, Inc.	P 870 696 250
Conley, Ken; Gund Ranch	P 870 696 286
Robertson, Dayle	P 870 696 285
Glass, Louis; Western Agra Financial Corp.	P 870 696 125
Heimbigner, G.; Lander County Commiss.	P 870 696 135
Williams, Ray Jr.; Lander County Commiss.	P 870 696 134
Elquist, Bill; Lander County Commiss.	P 870 696 133
Wilson, Stewart; Wilson & Barrow Ltd.	P 870 696 132
Damon, Dirk; Battle Mountain Bugle	P 870 696 131
Eureka County Commissioners	P 870 696 130

THOMPSON:ms:FCR&WRA.FFE:05-18-94

4160
(NV-064.10)

CERTIFIED MAIL # P 870 696 267
Return Receipt Requested

Russell Ranches
c/o Dave Ward
P.O. Box 343
Eureka, Nv. 89316

MAY 18 1994
JW 5/18/94

AREA MANAGER'S FINAL MULTIPLE USE DECISION FOR
THE WILLOW RANCH ALLOTMENT

The Record of Decision for the Shoshone-Eureka Environmental Impact Statement and Resource Management Plan (RMP) was issued on March 10, 1986. A subsequent RMP Amendment Record of Decision was issued November 6, 1987. These documents established the Land Use Plan goals and objectives which guide management of the public lands within this allotment. The Rangeland Program Summary (RPS) was issued in December, 1988 which further identified the allotment specific objectives for the Willow Ranch Allotment.

As identified in the Shoshone-Eureka Land Use Plan (LUP) and RPS, monitoring was established on this allotment to determine if existing multiple uses for the allotment were consistent with attainment of the objectives established by the LUP. Monitoring data has been collected in this allotment since 1971 and was last analyzed during the fall of 1992. The allotment evaluation process is to determine progress in meeting Land Use Plan objectives for this allotment, and to determine what changes in existing management are required in order to meet these objectives.

The specific Land Use Plan objectives for the Willow Ranch Allotment are listed below:

1. Land Use Plan/Rangeland Program Summary Objectives.
 - A. Vegetation and Ecological Condition:
 - (1) Utilization not to exceed 50% on key species by seed dissemination, and 60% by the end of grazing year.
 - (2) Utilization on crested wheatgrass seedings not to exceed 50% by seed dissemination, and 70% by the end of the grazing year.
 - B. Livestock Use:
 - (1) In the short term, manage at existing use levels of 2,924 AUMs
 - (2) In the long term, manage use at 2,924 AUMs.

- C. Wild Horse and Burro:
 - (1) Initially manage to provide 300 AUMs of forage within the North Monitor Herd Management Area (HMA).
 - (2) Maintain or improve wild horse habitat in a condition which enhances or preserves their wild and free-roaming behavior, in conformance with other objectives of the RMP.
 - (3) Maintain or improve wild horse habitat by free access to water, in conformance with other objectives of the RMP.

- D. Wildlife Use:
 - (1) In the short term, manage at existing big game use at 8 AUMs, in conformance with other objectives of the RMP.
 - (2) In the long term, provide habitat to support 159 AUMs of big game use.
 - (3) Manage rangeland habitat to maintain or enhance sage grouse strutting and nesting areas, in conformance with other objectives of the RMP.

- 2. Activity Plan Objectives.
 - A. Allotment Management Plan
 - (1) There was an Allotment Management Plan (AMP) approved for the Willow Ranch Allotment in December 1965, and a revision in 1967. the AMP set up a rest rotation grazing system.

- 3. Threatened and/or Endangered Plant Species.
 - A. Improve and maintain habitat for state listed sensitive species and federally listed threatened or endangered species.
 - B. There has been no threatened or endangered plant species identified in the allotment.

- 4. Threatened and/or Endangered Animal Species.
 - A. Improve and maintain habitat for state listed sensitive species and federally listed threatened or endangered species.
 - B. Although there are no known threatened or endangered animal species, two candidate species: 1) The ferruginous hawk was observed actively nesting during the June 13-17, 1992 ferruginous hawk flight survey. 2) The loggerhead shrike also nests and resides on the allotment. There are several other Category 2 candidate species that may reside in the allotment. These are as follows: The pygmy rabbit, spotted bat, black tern, western least bittern and the white-faced ibis.

Through the allotment evaluation process it was determined that the vegetation objectives were being partially met. Some of the wildlife and wild horse objectives have not been met, therefore a change is required to meet all of the Land Use Plan objectives for this allotment:

A. Vegetation and Ecological Condition:

- (1) This objective has been partially met for the native vegetation; overall utilization calculated from use pattern maps met RPS objectives in 1991 and 1992, but exceeded RPS objectives in 1990.
- (2) This objective has been partially met for the seedings; overall utilization calculated from use pattern maps met RPS objectives in 1991 and 1992, but exceeded RPS objectives in 1990. Utilization readings in key areas have met RPS objectives some years, however some utilization readings have exceeded the RPS objectives.

B. Livestock Use:

- (1) Since average livestock use during the evaluation period was 3,858 AUMs, this objective was met.
- (2) Since average livestock use during the evaluation period was 3,858 AUMs, this objective was met.

C. Wild horse Use:

- (1) Since vegetation objective (1) (not to exceed utilization levels of native species by 50% at seed dissemination) has been met for the jackrabbit pasture. The North Monitor Herd Management Area lies within the jackrabbit pasture. Wild horses are currently using 96 AUMs in the jackrabbit pasture. The wild horse objective to provide 300 AUMs of forage [for wild horses] has been partially reached.
- (2) This objective has been met. While there is a fenceline which roughly follows the northern boundary of the Herd Management Area (HMA), there are no fence restrictions through the HMA or between the southern HMA boundary and the adjoining Kelly Creek Forest Service Territory.
- (3) This objective has been met. Wild horses have access to perennial springs in the HMA and adjoining Forest Service Territory.

D. Wildlife Use:

- (1) In the short term, manage at existing big game use at 8 AUMs, in conformance with other objectives of the RMP. This objective has been met.
- (2) In the long term, provide habitat to support 159 AUMs of big game use. Pronghorn antelope numbers are low at the present time with less than 50 animals or about 120 AUMs (NDOW 1993). The total number of AUMs for big game is 128 AUMs, therefore this objective has not been met. Improving the area to a good habitat condition (61-100% Potential Natural Community [PNC] rating) is important to antelope due to the critical fawning area. In fact, the entire allotment should be maintained in a good habitat condition for antelope and other wildlife throughout the year.
- (3) Manage rangeland habitat to maintain or enhance vegetative conditions in sage grouse strutting and nesting areas, in conformance with other objectives of the RMP. Sufficient data is not available to indicate sage grouse strutting and nesting area enhancement. Therefore, it cannot be determined whether this objective has been met or not. Further studies are required.

E. Threatened and Endangered Species

- (1) Improve and maintain habitat for state listed sensitive species and federally listed threatened or endangered species. Sufficient data is not available to indicate habitat enhancement for T&E species. Therefore, it cannot be determined whether this objective has been met or not. Further studies and surveys are required.

Through the consultation, coordination and cooperation process (CCC), your input as well as input from other affected interests has been considered in the allotment evaluation process. As a result of evaluation conclusions and after consideration of input received through CCC, and in order to meet multiple use objectives established by the LUP, the following decisions are necessary:

LIVESTOCK GRAZING MANAGEMENT DECISION

Based on the information provided in the allotment evaluation, the technical recommendations of my staff, and the input provided by the permittee, and other interested parties, it is my decision to implement the following changes in livestock management within this allotment:

In accordance with 43 CFR 4130.6-1(a) and 4130.6-2, the current authorized livestock active use shall be reduced by 1,749 AUMs, from 5,370 AUMs phased in over a 5 year period. All livestock reductions shall be placed in suspended non-use when the decision is implemented. The season of use starting date is being changed from April 16 to May 01 to allow for sage grouse strutting and nesting. The 14 days of spring use will be added on to the end of the grazing season from December 31 to January 14.

From:

<u>Permittee</u>	<u>Season of use</u>	<u>Total preference</u>	<u>Total suspension</u>	<u>Active preference</u>
Russell	04/16 to 12/31	5,370	0	5,370

To:

<u>Permittee</u>	<u>Season of use</u>	<u>Total preference</u>	<u>Total suspension</u>	<u>Active preference</u>
Russell	05/01 to 01/14	5,370	1,749	3,621

Authorized livestock use effective year 1:

<u>Use Area</u>	<u>No.</u>	<u>Kind</u>	<u>Period of Use</u>	<u>%Fed.</u>	<u>AUMs</u>	
					<u>Active</u>	<u>Susp.</u>
Willow Ranch	562	C	05/01 to 01/14	100	4,787	583

Authorized livestock use effective year 3:

<u>Use Area</u>	<u>No.</u>	<u>Kind</u>	<u>Period of Use</u>	<u>%Fed.</u>	<u>AUMs</u>	
					<u>Active</u>	<u>Susp.</u>
Willow Ranch	494	C	05/01 to 01/14	100	4,204	1,166

Authorized livestock use effective year 5:

<u>Use Area</u>	<u>No.</u>	<u>Kind</u>	<u>Period of Use</u>	<u>%Fed.</u>	<u>AUMs</u>	
					<u>Active</u>	<u>Susp.</u>
Willow Ranch	425	C	05/01 to 01/14	100	3,621	1,749

The following rest rotation grazing scheme will be implemented the first year.

YEAR 1			
<u>Grazing Pasture</u>	<u>Number of Cattle</u>	<u>From</u>	<u>To</u>
Lincoln Seeding	562 hd	05/01	06/07
Grimes Native	562 hd	06/08	06/30
Hillside	562 hd	07/01	07/31
Warm Spring	562 hd	08/01	08/31
Twin Spring	562 hd	09/01	10/07
Jackrabbit	562 hd	10/08	11/15
Grimes Seeding	562 hd	11/16	01/14
Bean Flat			REST
Wood's Seeding			REST

YEAR 2			
<u>Grazing Pasture</u>	<u>Number of Cattle</u>	<u>From</u>	<u>To</u>
Lincoln Seeding	562 hd	12/08	01/14
Grimes Native	562 hd	11/16	12/07
Hillside	562 hd	08/16	09/15
Warm Spring	562 hd	07/16	08/15
Twin Spring			REST
Jackrabbit	562 hd	09/16	10/15
Grimes Seeding	562 hd	10/16	11/15
Bean Flat	562 hd	06/08	07/15
Wood's Seeding	562 hd	05/01	06/07

YEAR 3			
<u>Grazing Pasture</u>	<u>Number of Cattle</u>	<u>From</u>	<u>To</u>
Lincoln Seeding	494 hd	09/22	10/21
Grimes Native	494 hd	08/22	09/21
Hillside	494 hd	05/22	06/15
Warm Spring			REST
Twin Spring	494 hd	05/01	05/21
Jackrabbit	494 hd	06/16	07/15
Grimes Seeding	494 hd	07/16	08/21
Bean Flat	494 hd	12/01	01/14
Wood's Seeding	494 hd	10/22	11/30

YEAR 4			
<u>Grazing Pasture</u>	<u>Number of Cattle</u>	<u>From</u>	<u>To</u>
Lincoln Seeding	494 hd	09/08	10/15
Grimes Native	494 hd	08/08	09/07
Hillside	494 hd	10/16	11/21
Warm Spring	494 hd	05/01	05/21
Twin Spring	494 hd	11/22	01/14
Jackrabbit			REST
Grimes Seeding			REST
Bean Flat	494 hd	05/22	06/30
Wood's Seeding	494 hd	07/01	08/07

YEAR 5				
<u>Grazing Pasture</u>	<u>Number of Cattle</u>	<u>From</u>	<u>To</u>	
Lincoln Seeding	425 hd	12/01	01/14	
Grimes Native	425 hd	11/08	11/30	
Hillside				REST
Warm Spring	425 hd	08/01	08/31	
Twin Spring	425 hd	07/01	07/31	
Jackrabbit	425 hd	06/08	06/30	
Grimes Seeding	425 hd	05/01	06/07	
Bean Flat	425 hd	09/01	10/07	
Wood's Seeding	425 hd	10/08	11/07	

YEAR 6				
<u>Grazing Pasture</u>	<u>Number of Cattle</u>	<u>From</u>	<u>To</u>	
Lincoln Seeding				REST
Grimes Native				REST
Hillside	425 hd	05/01	05/21	
Warm Spring	425 hd	06/22	07/31	
Twin Spring	425 hd	05/22	06/21	
Jackrabbit	425 hd	10/16	11/22	
Grimes Seeding	425 hd	11/23	01/14	
Bean Flat	425 hd	08/01	09/07	
Wood's Seeding	425 hd	09/08	10/15	

This illustration is limited to six years, however this sequence is intended to circulate continuously in this order. It should be understood that after year six one full cycle would be completed and the same sequence should be repeated another six years.

This rest rotation grazing scheme above must be followed to meet the Land Use Plan (LUP). Some grazing dates and seasons of use may need to be adjusted in the future to insure proper stocking and utilization rates for each pasture.

The following terms and conditions shall be made part of all grazing permits in the Willow Ranch Allotment:

This permit reflects your grazing preference based upon the "Allotment Evaluation" for this allotment. The term of this permit shall be for a term of ten years. The terms and/or conditions of this permit shall be amended or changed when additional and/or new monitoring data reflects the need to do so.

Actual use information will be submitted within 15 days of completing grazing use as specified on the grazing permit and grazing licenses. Because actual use records help with interpretation of monitoring data, permittees shall not be licensed the following season until actual use reports are accepted by this office. These reports are to be detailed (describe how livestock are managed, i.e. rotation schedules or pasture used and when and where), readable, accurate and completed on the appropriate actual use form. The actual use information should break out the use for each pasture.

Salt and mineral blocks will not be placed within 3/4 mile of any and all riparian areas or permanent livestock watering facilities.

Utilization of key species in the native pastures will not exceed 50% by the end of the grazing season.

Utilization of key species in the Crested wheatgrass seedings will not exceed 50% by the end of the grazing season.

All grazing will be in accordance with the rest rotation grazing schedule outlined in the Allotment Evaluation.

RATIONALE

The analysis and evaluation of available monitoring data indicates that current stocking rate and management practices are not meeting the Land Use Plan objectives for the Willow Ranch Allotment. The proposed reduction in active preference is necessary to meet specific allotment management objectives. The increased intensity of management proposed will provide needed rest during critical growth periods of the key species and allow Land Use Plan objectives to be met.

The overall reduction of livestock numbers, changes in the season of use, and implementation of a rest rotation grazing scheme will provide needed rest during critical growth periods and allow Land Use Plan objectives to be met. The reductions will be phased in over a 5 year period and continued monitoring should insure Land Use Plan objectives are being met. Livestock reductions will be placed in suspended non-use as implemented.

It will be necessary to maintain healthy winterfat and shadscale/budsage communities for rodents, lagomorphs, and insects that provide a food base for the ferruginous hawk and loggerhead shrike, two category 2 candidate species on the Threatened and Endangered Species List.

AUTHORITY

The authority for this decision is contained in Title 43 of the Code of Federal Regulations, which states in pertinent parts:

4100.0-8: "The authorized officer shall manage livestock grazing on public lands under the principle of multiple use and sustained yield, and in accordance with applicable land use plans. Land use plans shall establish allowable resource uses (either singly or in combination), related levels of production or use to be maintained, areas of use, and resource condition goals and objectives to be obtained. The plans also set forth program constraints and general management practices needed to achieve management objectives. Livestock grazing activities and management actions approved by the authorized officer shall be in conformance with the land use plan as defined at 43 CFR 1601.0-5 (b)."

4110.3: "The authorized officer shall periodically review the grazing preference specified in a grazing permit or grazing lease and may make changes in the grazing preference status. These changes shall be supported by monitoring, as evidenced by rangeland studies conducted over time, unless the change is either specified in an applicable land use plan or necessary to manage, maintain or improve rangeland productivity."

4110.3-2 (b): "When monitoring shows active use is causing an unacceptable level or pattern of utilization or exceeds the livestock carrying capacity as determined through monitoring, the authorized officer shall reduce active use if necessary to maintain or improve rangeland productivity, unless the authorized officer determines a change in management practices would achieve the management objectives."

4110.3-2 (c): "Where active use is reduced it shall be held in suspension or in nonuse for conservation/protection purposes, until the authorized officer determines that active use may resume."

4110.3-3 (a) "Changes in active use in excess of 10 percent shall be implemented over a 5-year period, unless after consultation with the affected permittees or lessees and other affected interests, an agreement is reached to implement the increase or decrease in less than 5 years."

4110.3-3 (b): "After consultation, coordination and cooperation, suspensions of preference shall be implemented through a documented agreement or by decision. If data acceptable to the authorized officer are available, an initial reduction shall be taken on the effective date of the agreement or decision and the balance taken in the third and fifth years following that effective date, except as provided in paragraph (a) of this section. If data acceptable to the authorized officer to support an initial reduction are not available, additional data will be collected through monitoring. Adjustments based on the additional data shall be implemented by agreement or decision that will initiate the 5-year implementation period."

4120.3-1 (c): "The authorized officer may require a permittee or lessee to maintain and/or modify range improvements on the public lands under § 4130.6-2 of this title."

4130.6: "Livestock grazing permits and leases shall contain terms and conditions necessary to achieve the management objectives for the public land and other lands under Bureau of Land Management administration."

4130.6-1 (a): "The authorized officer shall specify the kind and number of livestock, the period(s) of use, the allotment(s) to be used, and the amount of use, in animal unit months, for every grazing permit or lease. The authorized livestock grazing use shall not exceed the livestock carrying capacity as determined through monitoring and adjusted as necessary under §§ 4110.3, 4110.3-1 and 4110.3-2."

4130.6-2: "The authorized officer may specify in grazing permits and leases other terms and conditions which will assist in achieving management objectives, provide for proper range management or assist in the orderly administration of the public rangelands..."

APPEAL:

If you wish to appeal this decision for the purpose of a hearing before an Administrative Law Judge, in accordance with Title 43 CFR 4.470, you are allowed thirty (30) days from receipt of this notice within which to file such an appeal with the Shoshone-Eureka Resource Area Manager, Bureau of Land Management, 50 Bastian Road, P.O. Box 1420, Battle Mountain, Nevada, 89820. The appeal should state the reasons, clearly and concisely, why you think the final decision is in error. All grounds of error not stated shall be considered as waived [43 CFR 4.470 (a)].

WILDLIFE MANAGEMENT DECISION

Based on the information provided in the allotment evaluation, the technical recommendations of my staff, the input provided by the permittee and other interested parties, the following is my management decision for wildlife.

Effective March 1, 1994, Wildlife objectives in the RPS for the Willow Ranch Allotment are being modified or added as follows:

"Utilization of key browse not to exceed 50% in terrestrial big game habitat areas."

Improve the Twin Springs pasture, Jackrabbit pasture and south Hillside pasture to a good habitat condition for all big game areas as measured by BLM 6630 Manual long term condition studies. Achieving this objective will protect critical fawning areas.

"Manage rangeland habitat to maintain or enhance sage grouse strutting, nesting and brood rearing areas, in conformance with other objectives of the RMP."

These changes are in conformance with the Shoshone-Eureka Resource Area, Resource Management Plan Record of Decision dated March 10, 1986, the RMP Amendment Record of Decision dated November 6, 1987, and 43 CFR § 1610.5-3.

APPEAL:

Within 30 days of receipt of this decision, you have the right to appeal to the Board of Land Appeals, Office of the Secretary, in accordance with the regulations at 43 CFR 4.4. If an appeal is taken, you must follow the procedures outlined in the enclosed form 1842-1, Information on Taking Appeals to the Board of Land Appeals. Within 30 days after you appeal, you are required to provide a Statement of Reasons to the Board of Land Appeals and a copy to the Regional Solicitor's Office listed in item 3 on the form. Please provide a copy of your appeal and Statement of Reasons to the Shoshone-Eureka Resource Area Manager, Bureau of Land Management, Battle Mountain District, 50 Bastian Road, P.O. Box 1420, Battle Mountain, Nevada 89820. Copies of your appeal and the Statement of Reasons must also be served upon any parties adversely affected by this decision. The appellant has the burden of showing that the decision appealed from is in error.

In addition, within 30 days of receipt of this decision you have the right to file a petition for a stay (suspension) of the decision together with your appeal in accordance with the regulations at 43 CFR 4.21. The petition must be served upon the same parties specified above.

If you request a stay, you have the burden of proof to demonstrate that a stay should be granted based on the following standards:

- (1) The relative harm to the parties if the stay is granted or denied,
- (2) The likelihood of the appellant's success on the merits,
- (3) The likelihood of immediate and irreparable harm if the stay is not granted, and
- (4) Whether the public interest favors granting the stay. "Any person who is adversely affected by a decision of the authorized officer in the administration of these regulations may file an appeal. Appeals must be filed within 30 days of receipt of the decision in accordance with 43 CFR part 4, subpart E."

WILD HORSE MANAGEMENT

Monitoring data reflects that a ecological balance will be obtained by maintaining wild horse numbers at an appropriate management level of 96 AUMs (16 head for six months) for the North Monitor Herd Management Area which occurs in the Willow Ranch Allotment.

Based on the information provided, wild horse use in the Willow Ranch Allotment shall be managed at 96 AUMs (16 head for six months).

RATIONALE

The analysis and evaluation of available monitoring data indicates that Land Use Plan objectives for wild horses on the Willow Ranch Allotment are being met. Therefore no modifications in management actions are needed to meet the Land Use Plan objectives. Continued monitoring will be used to insure Land Use Plan objectives are being met.

AUTHORITY

The authority for this decision is contained in Section 3 (a) and (b) of the Wild Horse and Burro Act (P.L. 92-195) as amended, and in Title 43 of the Code of Federal Regulations, which states in pertinent parts:

4700.0-6 (a): "Wild horses and burros shall be managed as self-sustaining populations of healthy animals in balance with other uses and the productive capacity of their habitat."

4700.0-6 (d). "In administering these regulations, the authorized officer shall consult with Federal and State wildlife agencies and all other affected interests, to involve them in planning for and management of wild horses and burros on the public lands."

4710.1: "Management activities affecting wild horses and burros, including the establishment of herd management areas, shall be in accordance with approved land use plans prepared pursuant to part 1600 of this title."

4710.3-1: "Herd management areas shall be established for the maintenance of wild horse and burro herds. In delineating each herd management area, the authorized officer shall consider the appropriate management level for the herd, the habitat requirements of the animals, the relationships with other uses of the public and adjacent private lands, and the constraints contained in § 4710.4. The authorized officer shall prepare a herd management area plan, which may cover one or more herd management areas."

APPEAL:

Within 30 days of receipt of this decision, you have the right to appeal to the Board of Land Appeals, Office of the Secretary, in accordance with the regulations at 43 CFR 4.4. If an appeal is taken, you must follow the procedures outlined in the enclosed form 1842-1, Information on Taking Appeals to the Board of Land Appeals. Within 30 days after you appeal, you are required to provide a Statement of Reasons to the Board of Land Appeals and a copy to the Regional Solicitor's Office listed in item 3 on the form. Please provide a copy of your appeal and Statement of Reasons to the Shoshone-Eureka Resource Area Manager, Bureau of Land Management, Battle Mountain District, 50 Bastian Road, P.O. Box 1420, Battle Mountain, Nevada 89820. Copies of your appeal and the Statement of Reasons must also be served upon any parties adversely affected by this decision. The appellant has the burden of showing that the decision appealed from is in error.

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- (1) The relative harm to the parties if the stay is granted or denied,
- (2) The likelihood of the appellant's success on the merits,
- (3) The likelihood of immediate and irreparable harm if the stay is not granted, and
- (4) Whether the public interest favors granting the stay. "Any person who is adversely affected by a decision of the authorized officer in the administration of these regulations may file an appeal. Appeals must be filed within 30 days of receipt of the decision in accordance with 43 CFR part 4, subpart E."

/s/ Wayne King

Wayne King, Area Manager
Shoshone-Eureka Resource Area

(Certified Mail No.)
(#)

CC: BLM, Egan Resource Area	P 870 696 136
Animal Protection Instit. of America	P 870 696 247
USDI - Fish & Wildlife Service	P 870 696 275
Wild Horse Organized Assistance	P 870 696 374
Commission For The Preservation of Wild Horses and Burros	P 870 696 249
Olden, Mary E.; Esq.; Sanwa Bank	P 870 696 110
Van Horne, Thomas S.	P 870 696 109
Intermountain Federal Land Bank Assoc. Sierra/Nevada Production Credit Assoc.	P 870 696 246
Bank of America National Trust & Savings Assoc. Mid-Valley Corporate/Agribusiness Banking Group	P 870 696 129
Stratman, John; Metropolitan Life Insurance	P 870 696 128
Traveler's Insurance Company	P 870 696 127
Morgan, Lewis & Bockius	P 870 696 112
Cooper & Smith	P 870 696 111
International Society for the Protection of Mustangs and Burros	P 870 696 268
Blake, Michael	P 870 696 270
Jewell, Paula R.; The Humane Society of U.S.	P 870 696 114
Wilkins, Gloria; Georgia Earth Alliance	P 870 696 121
Busselman, Doug; Nevada Farm Bureau	P 870 696 113
Sorenson, Rick	P 870 696 124
Mauer, Anthony L.; Mauer-Shumaker, Inc.	P 870 696 126
Satterthwaite, Deloyd; Ellison Ranching Co.	P 870 696 123
Tipton, Tony; Carter Ranch	P 870 696 122
Erickson, Duane; Nevada Dept. of Wildlife	P 870 696 273
Podborny, Mike; Nevada Dept. of Wildlife	P 870 696 271
Larralde, Martin; Larralde Sheep Co.	P 870 696 137
County of Nye; County Commissioners	P 870 696 266
Toiyabe National Forest, Austin Ranger Dist.	P 870 696 269
Ballew, Tom; Nevada State Dept. of Agriculture	P 870 696 248
Strickland, Rose; Public Lands Committee	P 870 696 373
Nevada Cattleman's Association	P 870 696 274
Wald, Johanna H.; Natural Resource Defense Counc.	P 870 696 272
McLain, John; Resource Concepts, Inc.	P 870 696 250
Conley, Ken; Gund Ranch	P 870 696 286
Robertson, Dayle	P 870 696 285
Glass, Louis; Western Agra Financial Corp.	P 870 696 125
Heimbigner, G.; Lander County Commiss.	P 870 696 135
Williams, Ray Jr.; Lander County Commiss.	P 870 696 134
Elquist, Bill; Lander County Commiss.	P 870 696 133
Wilson, Stewart; Wilson & Barrow Ltd.	P 870 696 132
Damon, Dirk; Battle Mountain Bugle	P 870 696 131
Eureka County Commissioners	P 870 696 130

UNITED STATES
DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
BUREAU OF LAND MANAGEMENT

27 5/18/87

INFORMATION ON TAKING APPEALS TO THE BOARD OF LAND APPEALS

DO NOT APPEAL UNLESS

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

IF YOU APPEAL, THE FOLLOWING PROCEDURES MUST BE FOLLOWED

1. NOTICE OF APPEAL Within 30 days file a *Notice of Appeal* in the office which issued this decision (see 43 CFR Secs. 4.411 and 4.413). You may state your reasons for appealing, if you desire.

2. WHERE TO FILE

NOTICE OF APPEAL Bureau of Land Management
50 Bastian Road
P.O. Box 1420
Battle Mountain, NV 89820

SOLICITOR
ALSO COPY TO U.S. Department of the Interior
Office of the Solicitor
2800 Cottage Way, Rm. E-2753
Sacramento, CA 95825

3. STATEMENT OF REASONS Within 30 days after filing the *Notice of Appeal*, file a complete statement of the reasons why you are appealing. This must be filed with the United States Department of the Interior, Office of the Secretary, Board of Land Appeals, 4015 Wilson Blvd Arlington, Virginia 22203 (see 43 CFR Sec. 4.412 and 4.413). If you fully stated your reasons for appealing when filing the *Notice of Appeal*, no additional statement necessary.

SOLICITOR
ALSO COPY TO U.S. Department of the Interior
Office of the Solicitor
2800 Cottage Way, Rm. E-2753
Sacramento, CA 95825

4. ADVERSE PARTIES Within 15 days after each document is filed, each adverse party named in the decision and the Regional Solicitor or Field Solicitor having jurisdiction over the State in which the appeal arose must be served with a copy of: (a) the *Notice of Appeal*, (b) the Statement of Reasons, and (c) any other documents filed (see 43 CFR Sec. 4.413). Service will be made upon the Associate Solicitor, Division of Energy and Resources, Washington, D.C. 20240, instead of the Field or Regional Solicitor when appeals are taken from decisions of the Director (WO-100).

5. PROOF OF SERVICE Within 15 days after any document is served on an adverse party, file proof of the service with the United States Department of the Interior, Office of the Secretary, Board of Land Appeals, 4015 Wilson Blvd., Arlington, Virginia 22203. This may consist of a certified or registered mail "Return Receipt Card" signed by the adverse party (see 43 CFR Sec. 4.401(c)(2)).

Unless these procedures are followed your appeal will be subject to dismissal (see 43 CFR Sec. 4.402). Be certain that all communications are identified by serial number of the case being appealed.

4130
(NV-064.10)

RJL

CERTIFIED MAIL NO.
Return Receipt Requested

Dear Interested Party:

Due to the concerns in the protests to the Fish Creek and Willow Ranch Allotments Multiple Use Decisions, we feel that a field trip to these two allotments would be appropriate, prior to issuance of the Final Decisions.

The field trip for the Fish Creek allotment is scheduled for April 12, 1994 for all those who are interested in attending. We plan to meet at the cattleguard on the Northeast end of the allotment at the junction of State Highway 50 and State Road 379 approximately eight (8) miles southeast of Eureka, Nevada at 9:00 AM (see the enclosed map).

The field trip for the Willow Ranch allotment is scheduled for April 13, 1994 for all those who are interested in attending. We plan to meet at the cattleguard on the west side of the allotment, at the junction of State Highway 50 and Belmont Road approximately thirty one (31) miles west of Eureka, Nevada at 9:00 AM (see enclosed map).

The trips will last as long as it takes to view most of the allotment. Those who attend should plan to bring their own refreshments. It is anticipated that four wheel drive vehicles will be necessary.

We look forward to seeing you and if you have any questions regarding this letter, please call Floyd Thompson, Neal Beetch or Rick L. Oyler at 702-635-4000.

Sincerely,

187 Wayne King

Wayne King
Area Manager

Enclosures:

Map 1 Fish Creek Allotment
Map 2 Willow Ranch Allotment

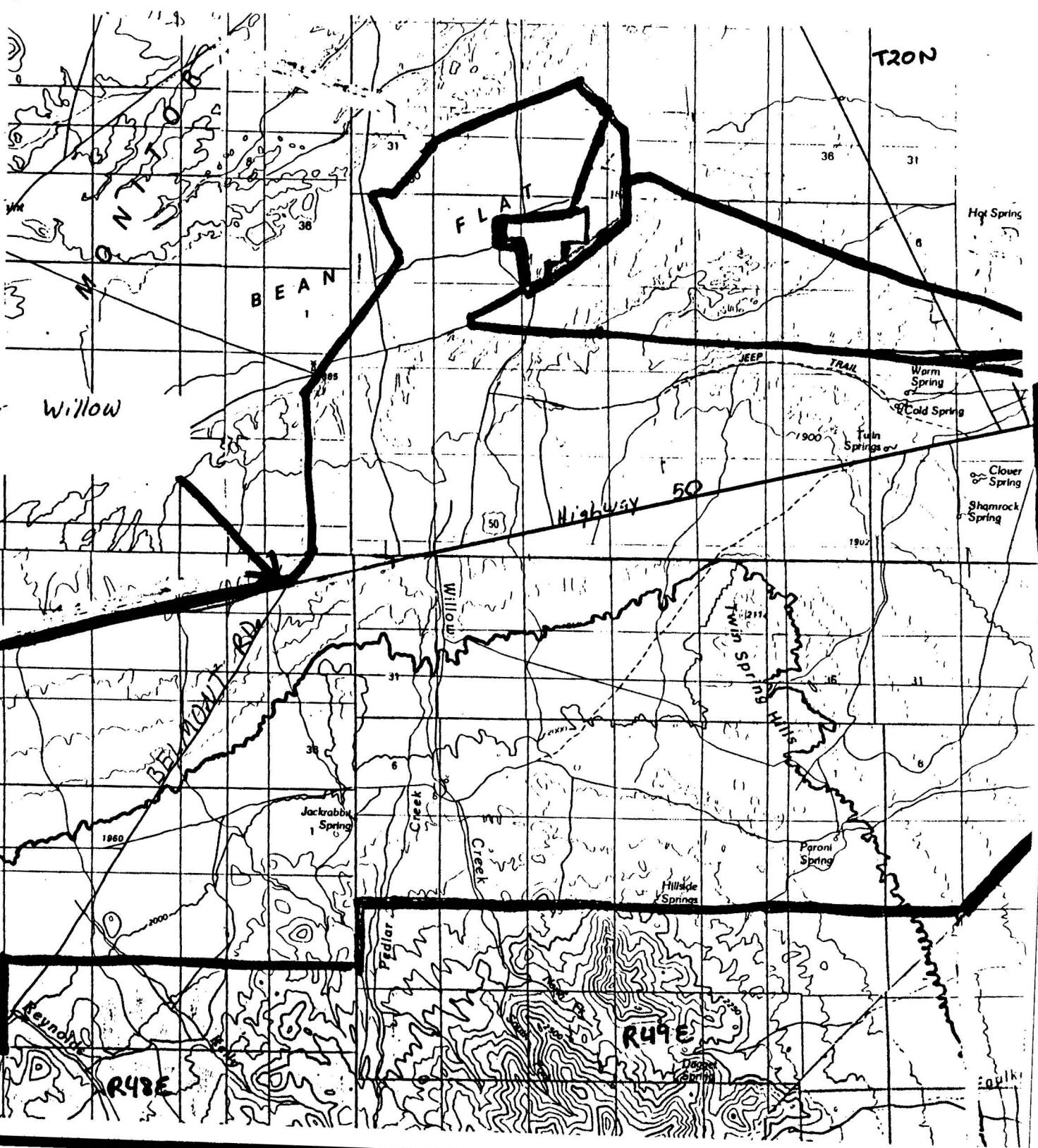
Willow Ranch Allotment

map 2

North ↑

TO Austin, TX

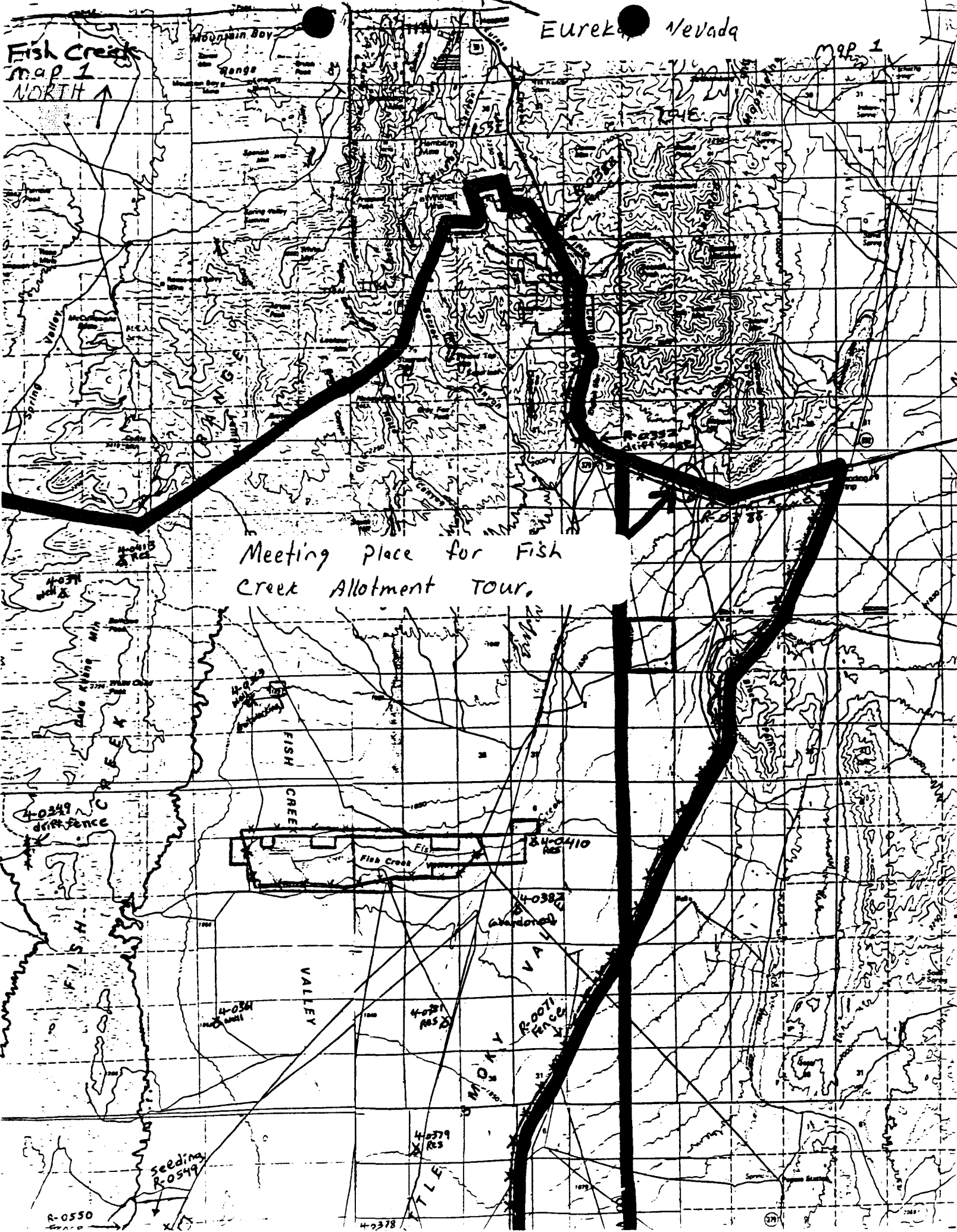
Meeting place for Willow
Allotment Tour.



Eureka Nevada

Fish Creek
Map 1
NORTH ↑

Map 1



Meeting place for Fish
Creek Allotment Tour.

4-0349 C
drift fence

seeding
R-0549

FISH
CREEK

Fish Creek

4-0382

4-0371
RES

4-0379
RES

MICHY
ROOTS
FENCE

R-0550

4-0378

37

71 5/18/99

TRIP NOTES
Willow Ranch Tour
4/13/94

Attending were:	Dave Ward	Russell Ranches
	Laura Beasley	Russell Ranches
	Chuck Saulisberry	RCI
	Pete Goicoechea	Eureka County Commiss.
	Bob Eddy	Rancher
	Jim Baumann	Eureka Co. Planning Comm.
	George Parman	People For The West
	Ray Williams	Lander County Commissioner
	Ray Salisberry	Lander Co. Planning Comm.
	Dayle Flanigan	US Forest Service
	Tom Frolli	US Forest Service
	Gary McCuin	Nevada Cattleman's Assoc.
	Ken Conley	Gund Ranch - UNR
	John Wilkers	Gund Ranch -UNR
	Kathy Graham	BLM
	Wayne King	BLM
	Neal Beetch	BLM
	Matt Spaulding	BLM
	John Winnepenninkx	BLM
	Doc Munson	BLM
	Rick Oyler	BLM
	Jeff Weeks	BLM
	Floyd Thompson	BLM

The tour began at the Belmont Road turnoff along Highway 50 west of Eureka. Introductions were made and Rick Oyler explained what was in the proposed decision. Rick also explained about the earlier full force and effect decisions implemented on the Woods and Grimes seedings. A discussion about sage grouse and their value was held. Ken Conley asked about the studies on sage grouse. Kathy Graham, Wayne King and Floyd Thompson responded with explanations. Wayne King said he would send sage grouse information with a bibliography to Ken. Jim Baumann said sage grouse have little economic value. Dave Ward said a lot of production could be achieved if more spraying with herbicides was done. Wayne King explained that spraying is now allowed on public lands, but environmental assessments must be completed. Chuck Saulisberry asked a number of questions about the evaluation. Chuck said he didn't like the proposed grazing rotation. Rick replied that there is some flexibility built into the rotation dates. Chuck said the change in the season of use is a significant change to the permittee. Rick replied that the Bureau is concerned about sage grouse values and that this is one of the changes to help manage for that multiple use. Chuck also said he didn't like the change in the percent utilization objective. Rick said that over-utilization of the seedings has occurred and the change in objectives is part of the plan to improve the health and vigor of the seeding. Dave Ward said he wants a spray or a burn on the seedings to stop the encroaching sagebrush. Rick said that the evaluation recommended evaluating one treatment or the other. Dave said he wanted more seedings put in

the allotment.

The second stop was in the Woods seeding. Pete Goicoechea said it would be better to graze the seedings in the fall after seed-ripe than to completely rest them. Dave Ward said the rotation is tough to follow. Gary McCuin said maintenance on the Wood's seeding is not economical, the rest should improve plant vigor enough to compete with the sagebrush.

The third stop was by the Lincoln seeding sprayed in the 1970s and Grimes native pasture. A discussion of drought and its impacts on crested wheatgrass was held. Dayle Flanigan led a discussion about the sustainability of crested wheatgrass seedings and tweaking the environment. Gary McCuin said more seedings increase profits. Gary said you need to balance uses with benefits; agriculture requires inputs. Gary said he thought the Lincoln seeding needed rest more than the Woods seeding.

The fourth stop was at the Grimes seeding and USFS Reynolds (South and North) seedings. The fenceline contrast was noted. Some people thought the only difference was utilization.

The fifth stop was in Jackrabbit pasture near a sage grouse strutting ground on the map. Sage grouse sign was observed in the area, however the concern was not in the strutting ground itself but in the nesting area around the strutting ground. Ken Conley said he feels the area is good for fall use if water was hauled; he said management of the pasture is needed. Doc Munson said there is good water in the pasture.

The sixth stop was in the Twin Springs spray area. Dave Ward said apart from the seedings, the native doesn't look in that bad of shape.

The tour proceeded into the Fish Creek allotment on the west side of Antelope Valley. The seventh stop was at an exclosure where little other than sagebrush was growing. The eighth stop was at an experimental seeding exclosure. A number of questions were asked about seedings on the public lands. Ken Conley and John Wilkers said it is necessary to ride in areas like this to move the cattle.

The tour continued down to the boundary between Sweeney Wash and Fish Creek. Few comments were noted.

The group then proceeded to the Seven Mile/Fish Creek boundary on the east side of the valley. A number of people commented that something needed to be done. Pete Goicoechea said if the horses weren't removed, the livestock management changes wouldn't be enough. Gary McCuin said he used to spend months pushing cattle on horseback to get proper utilization on the mountains and in the valley; he said the ranch ran 1500 to 2000 head in those days.

The last stop was at the privately owned Kitchen Meadows where hay was raised at one time. Some people who had been there before commented on the poor condition of the meadows.



United States Department of the Interior

BUREAU OF LAND MANAGEMENT

Battle Mountain District Office

50 Bastian Road

P.O. Box 1420

Battle Mountain, NV 89820

IN REPLY REFER TO:

4400.3

NV064.18

Dear Interested Party:

Please find enclosed the Final Evaluations, Management Action Selection Reports (MASR) and Proposed Multiple Use Decisions (PMUD) for the Fish Creek Ranch and Willow Ranch allotments. These allotments are within the Battle Mountain District, Bureau of Land Management, Shoshone/Eureka Resource Area, Battle Mountain, Nevada. Please review the documents and make any comments according to the directions found in the Protest section of the PMUD.

Sincerely,


Wayne King
Shoshone/Eureka Resource Area

Enclosures as stated

CC: * Russell Ranches (P 167 152 647)
-BLM, Egan Resource Area (P 167 152 666)
* Barngrover, Larry; Dept. of Wildlife (P 167 152 661)
* Animal Protection Instit. of America (P 167 152 772)
* USDI - Fish & Wildlife Service (P 167 152 777)
Wild Horse Organized Assistance (P 167 152 775)
* Commission For The Preservation of (P 167 152 771)
Wild Horses and Burros
* Olden, Mary E.; Esq.; Sanwa Bank (P 167 152 653)
* Van Horne, Thomas S. (P 167 152 654)
* Intermountain Federal Land Bank Assoc. (P 167 152 655)
Sierra/Nevada Production Credit Assoc.
* Bank of America National Trust & Savings Assoc. (P 167 152 656)
Mid-Valley Corporate/Agribusiness
Banking Group
* Stratman, John; Metropolitan Life Insurance (P 167 152 657)
* Traveler's Insurance Company (P 167 152 658)
* Morgan, Lewis & Bockius (P 167 152 651)
* Cooper & Smith (P 167 152 652)
* International Society for the Protection (P 167 152 646)
of Mustangs and Burros
* Blake, Michael (P 167 152 644)
* Jewell, Paula R.; The Humane Society of U.S. (P 167 152 660)
* Wilkins, Gloria; Georgia Earth Alliance (P 167 152 649)
* Busselman, Doug; Nevada Farm Bureau (P 167 152 650)
-Sorenson, Rick (P 167 152 662)
* Mauer, Anthony L.; Mauer-Shumaker, Inc. (P 167 152 659)
-Satterthwaite, Deloyd; Ellison Ranching Co. (P 167 152 664)
-Tipton, Tony (P 167 152 665)

*Erickson, Duane; Nevada Dept. of Wildlife	(P 167 152 779)
*Podborny, Mike; Nevada Dept. of Wildlife	(P 167 152 780)
-Larralde, Martin; Larralde Sheep Co.	(P 167 152 663)
γCounty of Nye; County Commissioners	(P 167 152 648)
*Toiyabe National Forest, Austin Ranger District	(P 167 152 645)
*Ballew, Tom; Nevada State Dept. of Agriculture	(P 167 152 773)
*Strickland, Rose; Public Lands Committee	(P 167 152 776)
✓Nevada Cattleman's Association	(P 167 152 778)
Wald, Johanna H.; Natural Resource Defense Council	(P 167 152 781)
*McClain, John; Resource Concepts, Inc.	(P 167 152 774)
x Stewart + Wilson	P 167-152 787



United States Department of the Interior

BUREAU OF LAND MANAGEMENT

Battle Mountain District Office
50 Bastian Road
P.O. Box 1420
Battle Mountain, NV 89820

IN REPLY REFER TO

4160
(NV-064.10)

CERTIFIED MAIL
Return Receipt Requested

Russell Ranches
c/o Dave Ward
P.O. Box 343
Eureka, Nv. 89316

AREA MANAGER'S PROPOSED MULTIPLE USE DECISION FOR THE WILLOW RANCH ALLOTMENT

The Record of Decision for the Shoshone-Eureka Environmental Impact Statement and Resource Management Plan (RMP) was issued on March 10, 1986. A subsequent RMP Amendment Record of Decision was issued November 6, 1987. These documents established the Land Use Plan goals and objectives which guide management of the public lands within this allotment. The Rangeland Program Summary (RPS) was issued in December, 1988 which further identified the allotment specific objectives for the Willow Ranch Allotment.

As identified in the Shoshone-Eureka Land Use Plan (LUP) and RPS, monitoring was established on this allotment to determine if existing multiple uses for the allotment were consistent with attainment of the objectives established by the LUP. Monitoring data has been collected in this allotment since 1971 and was last analyzed during the fall of 1992. The allotment evaluation process is to determine progress in meeting Land Use Plan objectives for this allotment, and to determine what changes in existing management are required in order to meet these objectives.

The specific Land Use Plan objectives for the Willow Ranch Allotment are listed below:

1. Land Use Plan/Rangeland Program Summary Objectives.
 - A. Vegetation and Ecological Condition:
 - (1) Utilization not to exceed 50% on key species by seed dissemination, and 60% by the end of grazing year.
 - (2) Utilization on crested wheatgrass seedings not to exceed 50% by seed dissemination, and 70% by the end of the grazing year.
 - B. Livestock Use:
 - (1) In the short term, manage at existing use levels of 2,924 AUMs
 - (2) In the long term, manage use at 2,924 AUMs.

C. Wild Horse and Burro:

- (1) Initially manage to provide 300 AUMs of forage within the North Monitor Herd Management Area (HMA).
- (2) Maintain or improve wild horse habitat in a condition which enhances or preserves their wild and free-roaming behavior, in conformance with other objectives of the RMP.
- (3) Maintain or improve wild horse habitat by free access to water, in conformance with other objectives of the RMP.

D. Wildlife Use:

- (1) In the short term, manage at existing big game use at 8 AUMs, in conformance with other objectives of the RMP.
- (2) In the long term, provide habitat to support 159 AUMs of big game use.
- (3) Manage rangeland habitat to maintain or enhance sage grouse strutting and nesting areas, in conformance with other objectives of the RMP.

2. Activity Plan Objectives.

A. Allotment Management Plan

- (1) There was an Allotment Management Plan (AMP) approved for the Willow Ranch Allotment in December 1965, and a revision in 1967. the AMP set up a rest rotation grazing system.

3. Threatened and/or Endangered Plant Species.

- A. Improve and maintain habitat for state listed sensitive species and federally listed threatened or endangered species.
- B. There has been no threatened or endangered plant species identified in the allotment.

4. Threatened and/or Endangered Animal Species.

- A. Improve and maintain habitat for state listed sensitive species and federally listed threatened or endangered species.
- B. Although there are no known threatened or endangered animal species, two candidate species: 1) The ferruginous hawk was observed actively nesting during the June 13-17, 1992 ferruginous hawk flight survey. 2) The loggerhead shrike also nests and resides on the allotment. There are several other Category 2 candidate species that may reside in the allotment. These are as follows: The pygmy rabbit, spotted bat, black tern, western least bittern and the white-faced ibis.

Through the allotment evaluation process it was determined that the vegetation objectives were being partially met. Some of the wildlife and wild horse objectives have not been met, therefore a change is required to meet all of the Land Use Plan objectives for this allotment:

- A. Vegetation and Ecological Condition:
- (1) This objective has been partially met for the native vegetation; overall utilization calculated from use pattern maps met RPS objectives in 1991 and 1992, but exceeded RPS objectives in 1990.
 - (2) This objective has been partially met for the seedings; overall utilization calculated from use pattern maps met RPS objectives in 1991 and 1992, but exceeded RPS objectives in 1990. Utilization readings in key areas have met RPS objectives some years, however some utilization readings have exceeded the RPS objectives.
- B. Livestock Use:
- (1) Since average livestock use during the evaluation period was 3,858 AUMs, this objective was met.
 - (2) Since average livestock use during the evaluation period was 3,858 AUMs, this objective was met.
- C. Wild horse Use:
- (1) This objective has been partially met. The wild horses have been using 96 AUMs in the HMA and vegetation objectives in the Herd area are being met.
 - (2) This objective has been met. These horses are wild and freely roam into the adjacent Kelly Creek Territory on United States Forest Service managed lands.
 - (3) This objective has been met. Wild horses have access to perennial springs in the HMA and adjoining Forest Service Territory.

D. Wildlife Use:

- (1) In the short term, manage at existing big game use at 8 AUMs, in conformance with other objectives of the RMP. This objective has been met.
- (2) In the long term, provide habitat to support 159 AUMs of big game use. Pronghorn antelope numbers are low at the present time with less than 50 animals or about 120 AUMs (NDOW 1993). The total number of AUMs for big game is 128 AUMs, therefore this objective has not been met. Improving the area to a good habitat condition (61-100% Potential Natural Community [PNC] rating) is important to antelope due to the critical fawning area. In fact, the entire allotment should be maintained in a good habitat condition for antelope and other wildlife throughout the year.
- (3) Manage rangeland habitat to maintain or enhance vegetative conditions in sage grouse strutting and nesting areas, in conformance with other objectives of the RMP. Sufficient data is not available to indicate sage grouse strutting and nesting area enhancement. Therefore, it cannot be determined whether this objective has been met or not. Further studies are required.

E. Threatened and Endangered Species

- (1) Improve and maintain habitat for state listed sensitive species and federally listed threatened or endangered species. Sufficient data is not available to indicate habitat enhancement for T&E species. Therefore, it cannot be determined whether this objective has been met or not. Further studies and surveys are required.

Through the consultation, coordination and cooperation process (CCC), your input as well as input from other affected interests has been considered in the allotment evaluation process. As a result of evaluation conclusions and after consideration of input received through CCC, and in order to meet multiple use objectives established by the LUP, the following decisions are necessary:

LIVESTOCK GRAZING MANAGEMENT DECISION

Based on the information provided in the allotment evaluation, the technical recommendations of my staff, and the input provided by the permittee, and other interested parties, it is my decision to implement the following changes in livestock management within this allotment:

In accordance with 43 CFR 4130.6-1(a) and 4130.6-2, the current authorized livestock active use shall be reduced by 1,749 AUMs, from 5,370 AUMs phased in over a 5 year period. All livestock reductions shall be placed in suspended non-use when the decision is implemented. The season of use starting date is being changed from April 16 to May 01 to allow for sage grouse strutting and nesting.

From:

<u>Permittee</u>	<u>Season of use</u>	<u>Total preference</u>	<u>Total suspension</u>	<u>Active preference</u>
Russell	04/16 to 12/31	5,370	0	5,370

To:

<u>Permittee</u>	<u>Season of use</u>	<u>Total preference</u>	<u>Total suspension</u>	<u>Active preference</u>
Russell	05/01 to 12/31	5,370	1,749	3,621

Authorized livestock use effective year 1:

<u>Use Area</u>	<u>No.</u>	<u>Kind</u>	<u>Period of Use</u>	<u>%Fed.</u>	<u>AUMs</u>	
					<u>Active</u>	<u>Susp.</u>
Willow Ranch	594	C	05/01 to 12/31	100	4,787	583

Authorized livestock use effective year 3:

<u>Use Area</u>	<u>No.</u>	<u>Kind</u>	<u>Period of Use</u>	<u>%Fed.</u>	<u>AUMs</u>	
					<u>Active</u>	<u>Susp.</u>
Willow Ranch	522	C	05/01 to 12/31	100	4,204	1,166

Authorized livestock use effective year 5:

<u>Use Area</u>	<u>No.</u>	<u>Kind</u>	<u>Period of Use</u>	<u>%Fed.</u>	<u>AUMs</u>	
					<u>Active</u>	<u>Susp.</u>
Willow Ranch	450	C	05/01 to 12/31	100	3,621	1,749

The following rest rotation grazing scheme will be implemented the first year.

YEAR 1			
<u>Grazing Pasture</u>	<u>Number of Cattle</u>	<u>From</u>	<u>To</u>
Lincoln Seeding	594 hd	05/01	06/07
Grimes Native	594 hd	06/08	06/30
Hillside	594 hd	07/01	07/31
Warm Spring	594 hd	08/01	08/31
Twin Spring	594 hd	09/01	10/07
Jackrabbit	594 hd	10/08	11/15
Grimes Seeding	594 hd	11/16	12/31
Bean Flat		REST	
Wood's Seeding		REST	

YEAR 2			
<u>Grazing Pasture</u>	<u>Number of Cattle</u>	<u>From</u>	<u>To</u>
Lincoln Seeding	594 hd	12/08	12/31
Grimes Native	594 hd	11/16	12/07
Hillside	594 hd	08/16	09/15
Warm Spring	594 hd	07/16	08/15
Twin Spring		REST	
Jackrabbit	594 hd	09/16	10/15
Grimes Seeding	594 hd	10/16	11/15
Bean Flat	594 hd	06/08	07/15
Wood's Seeding	594 hd	05/01	06/07

YEAR 3			
<u>Grazing Pasture</u>	<u>Number of Cattle</u>	<u>From</u>	<u>To</u>
Lincoln Seeding	522 hd	09/22	10/21
Grimes Native	522 hd	08/22	09/21
Hillside	522 hd	05/22	06/15
Warm Spring		REST	
Twin Spring	522 hd	05/01	05/21
Jackrabbit	522 hd	06/16	07/15
Grimes Seeding	522 hd	07/16	08/21
Bean Flat	522 hd	12/01	12/31
Wood's Seeding	522 hd	10/22	11/30

YEAR 4			
<u>Grazing Pasture</u>	<u>Number of Cattle</u>	<u>From</u>	<u>To</u>
Lincoln Seeding	522 hd	09/08	10/15
Grimes Native	522 hd	08/08	09/07
Hillside	522 hd	10/16	11/21
Warm Spring	522 hd	05/01	05/21
Twin Spring	522 hd	11/22	12/31
Jackrabbit		REST	
Grimes Seeding		REST	
Bean Flat	522 hd	05/22	06/30
Wood's Seeding	522 hd	07/01	08/07

YEAR 5			
<u>Grazing Pasture</u>	<u>Number of Cattle</u>	<u>From</u>	<u>To</u>
Lincoln Seeding	450 hd	12/01	12/31
Grimes Native	450 hd	11/08	11/30
Hillside		REST	
Warm Spring	450 hd	08/01	08/31
Twin Spring	450 hd	07/01	07/31
Jackrabbit	450 hd	06/08	06/30
Grimes Seeding	450 hd	05/01	06/07
Bean Flat	450 hd	09/01	10/07
Wood's Seeding	450 hd	10/08	11/07

YEAR 6			
<u>Grazing Pasture</u>	<u>Number of Cattle</u>	<u>From</u>	<u>To</u>
Lincoln Seeding		REST	
Grimes Native		REST	
Hillside	450 hd	05/01	05/21
Warm Spring	450 hd	06/22	07/31
Twin Spring	450 hd	05/22	06/21
Jackrabbit	450 hd	10/16	11/22
Grimes Seeding	450 hd	11/23	12/31
Bean Flat	450 hd	08/01	09/07
Wood's Seeding	450 hd	09/08	10/15

This illustration is limited to six years, however this sequence is intended to circulate continuously in this order. It should be understood that after year six one full cycle would be completed and the same sequence should be repeated another six years.

This rest rotation grazing scheme above must be followed to meet the Land Use Plan (LUP). Some grazing dates and seasons of use may need to be adjusted in the future to insure proper stocking and utilization rates for each pasture.

The following terms and conditions shall be made part of all grazing permits in the Willow Ranch Allotment:

This permit reflects your grazing preference based upon the "Allotment Evaluation" for this allotment. The term of this permit shall be for a term of ten years. The terms and/or conditions of this permit shall be amended or changed when additional and/or new monitoring data reflects the need to do so.

Actual use information will be submitted within 15 days of completing grazing use as specified on the grazing permit and grazing licenses. Because actual use records help with interpretation of monitoring data, permittees shall not be licensed the following season until actual use reports are accepted by this office. These reports are to be detailed (describe how livestock are managed, i.e. rotation schedules or pasture used and when and where), readable, accurate and completed on the appropriate actual use form. The actual use information should break out the use for each pasture.

Salt and mineral blocks will not be placed within 3/4 mile of any and all riparian areas or permanent livestock watering facilities.

Utilization of key species in the native pastures will not exceed 50% by the end of the grazing season.

Utilization of key species in the Crested wheatgrass seedings will not exceed 50% by the end of the grazing season.

All grazing will be in accordance with the rest rotation grazing schedule outlined in the Allotment Evaluation.

RATIONALE

The analysis and evaluation of available monitoring data indicates that current stocking rate and management practices are not meeting the Land Use Plan objectives for the Willow Ranch Allotment. The proposed reduction in active preference is necessary to meet specific allotment management objectives. The increased intensity of management proposed will provide needed rest during critical growth periods of the key species and allow Land Use Plan objectives to be met.

The overall reduction of livestock numbers, changes in the season of use, and implementation of a rest rotation grazing scheme will provide needed rest during critical growth periods and allow Land Use Plan objectives to be met. The reductions will be phased in over a 5 year period and continued monitoring should insure Land Use Plan objectives are being met. Livestock reductions will be placed in suspended non-use as implemented.

It will be necessary to maintain healthy winterfat and shadscale/budsage communities for rodents, lagomorphs, and insects that provide a food base for the ferruginous hawk and loggerhead shrike, two category 2 candidate species on the Threatened and Endangered Species List.

AUTHORITY

The authority for this decision is contained in Title 43 of the Code of Federal Regulations, which states in pertinent parts:

4100.0-8: "The authorized officer shall manage livestock grazing on public lands under the principle of multiple use and sustained yield, and in accordance with applicable land use plans. Land use plans shall establish allowable resource uses (either singly or in combination), related levels of production or use to be maintained, areas of use, and resource condition goals and objectives to be obtained. The plans also set forth program constraints and general management practices needed to achieve management objectives. Livestock grazing activities and management actions approved by the authorized officer shall be in conformance with the land use plan as defined at 43 CFR 1601.0-5 (b)."

4110.3: "The authorized officer shall periodically review the grazing preference specified in a grazing permit or grazing lease and may make changes in the grazing preference status. These changes shall be supported by monitoring, as evidenced by rangeland studies conducted over time, unless the change is either specified in an applicable land use plan or necessary to manage, maintain or improve rangeland productivity."

4110.3-2 (b): "When monitoring shows active use is causing an unacceptable level or pattern of utilization or exceeds the livestock carrying capacity as determined through monitoring, the authorized officer shall reduce active use if necessary to maintain or improve rangeland productivity..."

4110.3-2 (c): "Where active use is reduced it shall be held in suspension..."

4110.3-3 (a) "Changes in active use in excess of 10 percent shall be implemented over a 5-year period..."

4110.3-3 (b): "After consultation, coordination and cooperation, suspensions of preference shall be implemented through a documented agreement or by decision. If data acceptable to the authorized officer are available, an initial reduction shall be taken on the effective date of the agreement or decision and the balance taken in the third and fifth years following that effective date..."

4120.3-1 (c): "The authorized officer may require a permittee or lessee to maintain and/or modify range improvements on the public lands under § 4130.6-2 of this title."

4130.6: "Livestock grazing permits and leases shall contain terms and conditions necessary to achieve the management objectives for the public land and other lands under Bureau of Land Management administration."

4130.6-1 (a): "The authorized officer shall specify the kind and number of livestock, the period(s) of use, the allotment(s) to be used, and the amount of use, in animal unit months, for every grazing permit or lease. The authorized livestock grazing use shall not exceed the livestock carrying capacity as determined through monitoring and adjusted as necessary under § § 4110.3, 4110.3-1 and 4110.3-2."

4130.6-2: "The authorized officer may specify in grazing permits and leases other terms and conditions which will assist in achieving management objectives, provide for proper range management or assist in the orderly administration of the public rangelands..."

PROTEST:

If you wish to protest this decision in accordance with 43 CFR § 4160.2, you are allowed fifteen (15) days from receipt of this notice within which to file a protest with the Bureau of Land Management, Area Manager, Shoshone-Eureka Resource Area, 50 Bastian Rd., P.O. Box 1420, Battle Mountain, Nevada, 89820. A protest may be made either in person or in writing and should specify the reasons, clearly and concisely, as to why you think the proposed decision is in error. If a protest is filed within the time allowed, the protest statement of reasons and other pertinent information will be considered and a final decision will be issued with a right of appeal (43 CFR § 4160.3 (b) and 4160.4).

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

WILDLIFE MANAGEMENT DECISION

Based on the information provided in the allotment evaluation, the technical recommendations of my staff, the input provided by the permittee and other interested parties, no wildlife management decision is necessary.

Effective March 1, 1994, Wildlife objectives in the RPS for the Willow Ranch Allotment are being modified or added as follows:

"Utilization of key browse not to exceed 50% in terrestrial big game habitat areas."

Improve the Twin Springs pasture, Jackrabbit pasture and south Hillside pasture to a good habitat condition for all big game areas as measured by BLM 6630 Manual long term condition studies. Achieving this objective will protect critical fawning areas.

"Manage rangeland habitat to maintain or enhance sage grouse strutting, nesting and brood rearing areas, in conformance with other objectives of the RMP."

These changes are in conformance with the Shoshone-Eureka Resource Area, Resource Management Plan Record of Decision dated March 10, 1986, the RMP Amendment Record of Decision dated November 6, 1987, and 43 CFR § 1610.5-3.

WILD HORSE MANAGEMENT

Monitoring data reflects that a ecological balance will be obtained by maintaining wild horse numbers at an appropriate management level of 96 AUMs (16 head for six Months) for the North Monitor Herd Management Area which occurs in the Willow Ranch Allotment.

Based on the information provided, wild horse use in the Willow Ranch Allotment shall be managed at 96 AUMs (16 head for six months).

RATIONALE

The analysis and evaluation of available monitoring data indicates that Land Use Plan objectives for wild horses on the Willow Ranch Allotment are being met. Therefore no modifications in management actions are needed to meet the Land Use Plan objectives. Continued monitoring will be used to insure Land Use Plan objectives are being met.

AUTHORITY

The authority for this decision is contained in Section 3 (a) and (b) of the Wild Horse and Burro Act (P.L. 92-195) as amended, and in Title 43 of the Code of Federal Regulations, which states in pertinent parts:

4700.0-6 (a): "Wild horses and burros shall be managed as self-sustaining populations of healthy animals in balance with other uses and the productive capacity of their habitat."

4700.0-6 (d). "In administering these regulations, the authorized officer shall consult with Federal and State wildlife agencies and all other affected interests, to involve them in planning for and management of wild horses and burros on the public lands."

4710.1: "Management activities affecting wild horses and burros, including the establishment of herd management areas, shall be in accordance with approved land use plans prepared pursuant to part 1600 of this title."

4710.3-1: "Herd management ares shall be established for the maintenance of wild horse and burro herds. In delineating each herd management area, the authorized officer shall consider the appropriate management level for the herd, the habitat requirements of the animals, the relationships with other uses of the public and adjacent private lands, and the constraints contained in § 4710.4. The authorized officer shall prepare a herd management area plan, which may cover one or more herd management areas."

PROTEST:

In accordance with 43 CFR § 4770.3 which states in part:

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

"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 Shoshone-Eureka Resource Area Manager, 50 Bastian Rd., P.O. Box 1420, Battle Mountain, Nevada 89820.

W King NV064
Wayne King, Area Manager
Shoshone-Eureka Resource Area

CC: Russell Ranches	(P 167 152 647)
Barngrover, Larry; Dept. of Wildlife	(P 167 152 661)
Animal Protection Instit. of America	(P 167 152 772)
USDI - Fish & Wildlife Service	(P 167 152 777)
Wild Horse Organized Assistance	(P 167 152 775)
Commission For The Preservation of Wild Horses and Burros	(P 167 152 771)
Olden, Mary E.; Esq.; Sanwa Bank	(P 167 152 653)
Van Horne, Thomas S.	(P 167 152 654)
Intermountain Federal Land Bank Assoc. Sierra/Nevada Production Credit Assoc.	(P 167 152 655)
Bank of America National Trust & Savings Assoc. Mid-Valley Corporate/Agribusiness Banking Group	(P 167 152 656)
Stratman, John; Metropolitan Life Insurance	(P 167 152 657)
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Morgan, Lewis & Bockius	(P 167 152 651)
Cooper & Smith	(P 167 152 652)
International Society for the Protection of Mustangs and Burros	(P 167 152 646)
Blake, Michael	(P 167 152 644)
Jewell, Paula R.; The Humane Society of U.S.	(P 167 152 660)
Wilkins, Gloria; Georgia Earth Alliance	(P 167 152 649)
Busselman, Doug; Nevada Farm Bureau	(P 167 152 650)
Mauer, Anthony L.; Mauer-Shumaker, Inc.	(P 167 152 659)
Erickson, Duane; Nevada Dept. of Wildlife	(P 167 152 779)
Podborny, Mike; Nevada Dept. of Wildlife	(P 167 152 780)
County of Nye; County Commissioners	(P 167 152 648)
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Ballew, Tom; Nevada State Dept. of Agriculture	(P 167 152 773)
Strickland, Rose; Public Lands Committee	(P 167 152 776)
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Wald, Johanna H.; Natural Resource Defense Council	(P 167 152 781)
McClain, John; Resource Concepts, Inc.	(P 167 152 774)

Management Action Selection Report
WILLOW RANCH ALLOTMENT
Shoshone-Eureka Resource Area
January, 1994

I. Introduction

The permittee within this allotment is Daniel Russell.

The Willow Ranch Allotment evaluation displays information collected for the period 1982 through 1993 in accordance with direction set forth in WO Instruction Memorandum 86-706 and Nevada Instruction Memorandum No.89-268. Conclusions of the evaluation were based upon monitoring data collected during the years 1982 through 1992 from the following sources:

1. Range, wildlife and wild horse monitoring files compiled and maintained by the Shoshone-Eureka Resource Area office.
2. Dave Ward authorized representative for Russell Ranches was consulted during the early stages of the draft evaluation and was asked to comment on the Draft evaluation however, no comments were received by the Shoshone-Eureka Resource Area. All affected interest groups were invited to attend a public meeting held September 14, 1993, however no affected interest groups including the permittee attended the meeting.
3. Others providing written input for this evaluation include the following:

Commission for the Preservation of Wild Horses
Nevada Department of Wildlife

Copies of the comment letters can be found in section III of the allotment evaluation file located in the Shoshone-Eureka Resource Area. All allotment specific comments were carefully considered for incorporation into the final evaluation. Some of the primary concerns are addressed as follows:

The Commission for the Preservation of Wild Horses is concerned about Animal Unit Months (AUMs) identified in the Land Use Plan (LUP)/Rangeland Program Summary (RPS) of livestock, wild horse and wildlife. They were concerned that livestock were given an increase in AUMs and wild horses were given a reduction in AUMs. The AUMs stated in the LUP/RPS were derived from a five year average of licensed use prior to the completion of the LUP/RPS in 1988 and not on the active preference adjudicated in the 1964 range survey. The range survey allocated 5,370 AUMs to livestock which is being reduced to 3,621 AUMs by this evaluation. Wild horses were

allocated 300 AUMs in the LUP/RPS. Aerial and ground surveys have indicated that 96 AUMs is the current use by wild horses. The Commission for the Preservation of Wild Horses was also concerned that the wild horses were being restricted to ten percent of the Herd Management Area (HMA). The HMA boundary is not proposed to be changed by this evaluation. The majority of the HMA lies within the fenced area of the Jackrabbit pasture. The wild horses in the North Monitor HMA have free access to the Forest Service Kelly Creek Territory.

The Nevada Department of Wildlife was concerned about the over utilization of key forage species. The Nevada Department of Wildlife stated that the reductions to livestock were not enough to stop heavy and severe over utilization of key species. The Bureau has recommended shortening the grazing season by extending the turn-out date from April 16 to May 01 to provide for sage grouse nesting and brood rearing. The Bureau has set up a six year rest rotation grazing scheme that would provide a tool to keep key forage species from being over utilized and provide a rest period to regain plant vigor. The LUP/RPS has the utilization level for crested wheatgrass seedings set at 70%. This percentage is the midpoint of heavy use. There is a past history of over use on the crested wheatgrass seedings coupled with several drought years within this allotment, therefore the Bureau is changing the utilization level for all crested wheatgrass seedings in the Willow Ranch Allotment to 50%, this would increase plant health and vigor as well as provide more cover for wildlife species. Additionally, the Bureau through other actions is taking steps to address the over-utilization of the Wood's and Grimes seedings.

The Bureau is also changing the recommended utilization level on the native vegetation from 60% to 50%, this would increase the plant stubble height which would benefit prey species of the ferruginous hawk and loggerhead shrike, two Category 2 candidate species on the Threatened and Endangered species List.

Based on the conclusions of the allotment evaluation, the vegetation land use plan objectives for this allotment were partially met for the native vegetation; overall utilization calculated from use pattern maps met RPS objectives in 1991 and 1992, but exceeded RPS objectives in 1990. The land use plan objectives for the seedings were partially met. Overall utilization calculations from use pattern maps met RPS objectives in 1991 and 1992 but exceeded RPS objectives in 1990.

Wild horse objectives have been partially met with horses using 96 of the 300 AUMs allotted in the RPS. The objectives to allow wild horses access to perennial springs and adjoining Forest Service Territory have been met.

After analysis of vegetation and wildlife data, the failure to meet wildlife objectives is not caused by existing wildlife management. Therefore, the decision will change livestock grazing management and wild horse grazing management, and not wildlife management. Adjustments in grazing on the native range will improve big game habitat. Grazing will not be allowed on native pastures until May 1, thus minimizing livestock grazing impacts during sage grouse strutting and nesting.

At least one pair of ferruginous hawks (*Buteo regalis*) is known to nest and hunt in the Willow Ranch Allotment. This species subsists primarily on ground squirrel (*Citellus townsendi*), voles (*Microtis montanus*), deer mice (*Peromyscus maniculatus*) and pygmy rabbits (*Sylvilagus idahoensis*).

Loggerhead shrikes (*Lanius ludovicianus*) hunt and nest throughout the sagebrush areas of the allotment.

Pygmy rabbits may inhabit the lower reaches of the sagebrush community, and are likely to be found in the taller sage stands. The 50% utilization levels will leave more forage and cover for this species.

After analysis of grazing adjustments needed to meet the appropriate utilization levels it is concluded that the permittee's active preference should be adjusted to 3,621 AUMs. A rest rotation grazing system will be implemented for the allotment. No livestock grazing will be allowed until May 1. Flexibility in grazing dates will be allowed in the native pastures until December 31, if the permittee so requests. The active preference adjustment, coupled with the implementation of the above pasture rotations will serve as the short and long term management actions. Continued monitoring will determine if land use plan objectives are being met or not.

II Technical Recommendations or options

Over-utilization of key forage species in the Willow Ranch Allotment is a serious range management problem. Although some recent changes in livestock use has helped to alleviate the problem of wide-spread severe overuse, there still exists many acres that show over-utilization.

In order to achieve the management objectives specified in the RPS, utilization levels must be reduced and excessive grazing of key species must be avoided. Keeping utilization at or below recommended use levels will allow the key species to complete their growth cycles, become more vigorous and re-establish in disturbed areas.

The heaviest use levels observed were in 1990. This is also the same year the permittee used the most AUMs. As the permittee reduced livestock use in 1991 and 1992, there was a noticeable decrease in over utilization of the key species. The precipitation levels were constant during these years as well.

1. Current grazing management practices will be changed so they are compatible with specific key area management objectives and those identified in the RMP. In order to reduce the utilization on the key species, the following options were derived from the 1990, 1991 and 1992 use data. Livestock reductions were calculated using the following relationship:

$$\frac{\text{Actual Use (AUMS)}}{\text{Actual Utilization}} = \frac{\text{Desired Use (AUMS)}}{\text{Desired Utilization}}$$

Reductions for livestock will be made from active preference.

- a) Determination of adjustments based on weighted average percent utilization calculations.
 - (1) Average actual and estimated use 1990, 1991 and 1992.

Permittee	=	3,697 AUMs
Horses	=	96 AUMs
Wildlife	=	<u>128 AUMs</u>
Total		3,921 AUMs

- (2) Utilization
The adjusted total weighted averages by year (see appendix C for calculations).

1990	80%	weighted average seedings	=	2,134
1990	68%	weighted average native	=	2,185
1991	66%	weighted average seedings	=	1,947
1991	56%	weighted average native	=	2,055
1992	70%	weighted average seedings	=	1,493
1992	53%	weighted average native	=	1,815

(3) Average Desired Use

Seedings	=	1,858 AUMs
Native	=	<u>2,018</u> AUMs
Total	=	3,876 AUMs

(4) Active Preference (P); Average Actual and Estimated Use 1982-1992 (H); Long-Term RPS Objective. (WL).

Permittee	=	5,370 AUMs
Horses	=	96 AUMs
Wildlife	=	<u>159</u> AUMs
AUMs Total Demand	=	5,625 AUMs

(5) Total demand for the allotment = 5,625
 Desired use for the allotment = 3,876
 Reduction needed = 1,749

(6) Prorated adjustments

Cattle: 1,749 X 100% = 1,749 AUM reduc.

Horses: 1,749 X 0% = 0 AUM reduction

Wildlife: 1,749 X 0% = 0 AUM reduction

The following tabulations reflect AUM changes that will occur based upon the above reductions:

<u>Permittee</u>	<u>Total Pref.</u>	<u>Original Susp.</u>	<u>Active Pref.</u>	<u>New Susp.</u>	<u>New Act. Pref</u>
Dan Russell	5,370	0	5,370	1,749	3,621

	<u>RMP Allocation</u>	<u>Avg. Act.</u>	<u>Proposed Reduction</u>	<u>New AML</u>
Wild Horses	300	96	0	96

	<u>RMP Allocation</u>	<u>Avg. Act.</u>	<u>Proposed Reduction</u>
Wildlife	159	128	0

The wild horses inhabiting this allotment utilize the jackrabbit pasture. The jackrabbit pasture has generally received moderate use during the evaluation period. Because wild horses are not a problem, the wild horses in the Willow Ranch Allotment will not receive an AUM reduction at this time.

Wildlife have been allocated 159 AUMs in the RPS but are currently using 128 AUMs. Due to the small number of game species in the Willow Ranch Allotment there will be no AUM reduction for wildlife at this time.

2. This evaluation finding and subsequent decision will replace the existing Allotment Management Plan (AMP) and the following will be implemented:

- a) The season of use should be changed from April 16 to May 01 to further maintain and enhance sage grouse strutting, nesting, and brood rearing areas.
- b) The rest rotation grazing scheme in appendix D should be followed. Some grazing dates and seasons of use may need to be adjusted in the future to insure proper stocking and utilization rates for each pasture.
- c) Change the utilization objective in the LUP/RPS for crested wheatgrass seedings to 50% by the end of the grazing year, this would increase plant health and vigor as well as provide more cover for wildlife.
- d) Change the utilization objective in the LUP/RPS for the native pastures to 50% by the end of the year, this would increase plant stubble height which would benefit prey species of the ferruginous hawk and loggerhead shrike.

3. Vegetation Manipulation:

- a) Use controlled burning, mechanical control and or chemical spraying of stagnant sagebrush and pinyon/juniper stands to reestablish native grass species.
- b) Determine whether the existing seedings or sprays are of value to respray or to manage them as they are now.

4. Evaluate Existing and Future Water Sources:

- a) Develop water in pastures lacking reliable water in conjunction with the wild horse and wildlife specialists.

- b) Evaluate all existing wells to determine where repairs are required and which wells are dry. This needs to be done in conjunction with wild horses and wildlife to determine local watering needs.
5. Collect Actual Use By Pasture:
- a) Require the permittee to turn in actual use reports on a pasture by pasture basis. If actual use is not reported by the end of the grazing season the following grazing season application will be denied until the actual use reports are submitted to the Bureau of Land Management.
6. Retain the 96 AUMs currently being utilized by wild horses in this allotment, and set the short term AML for this HMA at 96 AUMs (16 head for six months).
7. The following recommendation is to update the RMP, and AMP for the Willow Ranch Allotment:
- a) Establish a wildlife objective to read as follows: "Utilization of key browse not to exceed 50% in terrestrial big game habitat areas."
 - b) Establish a wildlife objective to read as follows: Improve the Twin Springs pasture, Jackrabbit pasture and south Hillside pasture to a good habitat condition for all big game areas as measured by BLM 6630 Manual long term condition studies. Achieving this objective will protect critical fawning areas. Key areas corresponding to critical antelope fawning areas for 1992 are shown in appendix E.
 - c) Change the LUP/RPS sage grouse objectives to read: "Manage rangeland habitat to maintain or enhance sage grouse strutting, nesting and brood rearing areas, in conformance with other objectives of the RMP."
8. It is recommended that grazing within a 2-mile radius of major sage grouse strutting ground complexes (See map 2) be prohibited from March 1 to June 1, every year, to increase sagebrush canopy cover (20 to 30%), understory cover, and forb volume and variety. It is further recommended that pastures containing a strutting-nesting area be given a year's rest, one out of every three years, to further rebuild the vegetative condition to one suitable for sage grouse production.

Excluded from the recommendation would be artificial seeding areas. Sage grouse are observed strutting in some of these seedings. However, these seedings are very poor nesting habitat. By allowing the reestablishment of sagebrush on sage grouse range, except for upland meadows will provide suitable habitat. For these reasons, the sagebrush areas adjacent to the strutting ground should be protected, when the ground is located within a seeding, but not the ground itself.

9. The candidate species ferruginous hawk hunts and nests within the allotment. At present the species seems to be doing fairly well; frequent observations are reported. It is recommended that raptor nest sites be monitored and trees within a 2-mile radius of nesting areas be excluded from any cutting or burning projects. Measures which will increase the understory cover in the sage grouse production areas will also result in higher rodent populations, thus bettering ferruginous hawk habitat. Further study of the species is required.
10. Loggerhead shrikes hunt and nest throughout the sagebrush areas of the allotment; conditions at present seem to favor the species. Nothing proposed in the Multiple Use Decision will affect the species adversely. Further study of the species is recommended.
11. Pygmy rabbits may inhabit the lower reaches of the sagebrush community, and are likely to be found in the taller sage stands. All that can be recommended at this time are continued inventory efforts and further study of the species should it be located in the allotment.

III. Analysis and Selection of Options and Rationale

The comments received stressed the utilization calculations, active preference, utilization levels and management objectives. I have given each of these suggestions a full review and feel that by implementing options: 1, 2(a), 2(b), 2(c), 2(d), 5, 6, 7(a), 7(b), 7(c) and 8 listed above with a decision, and working recommendations: 3(a), 3(b), 4(a), 4(b), 9, 10, and 11 in the Annual Work Plan (AWP) the BLM can make progress towards meeting the long term objectives of the allotment. I recognize that continued data will be required to fully meet the resource needs of the area. This information will help us make additional, or different adjustments where needed. The necessary stipulations to accomplish adequate protection of the resources will be made a part of all construction authorizations.

IV. Selected Management Action

I have reviewed the technical recommendations and options. Options: 1, 2(a), 2(b), 2(c), 2(d), 5, 6, 7(a), 7(b), 7(c) and 8 listed above with a decision, and working recommendations: 3(a), 3(b), 4(a), 4(b), 9, 10, and 11 in the Annual Work Plan (AWP) process are required to meet the short term objectives, and I have decided that implementation of all are necessary to meet the multiple use objectives of the allotment. The following actions represent my proposed decision.

Livestock Grazing Management

Based on the information provided in the allotment evaluation, the technical recommendations of my staff, and the input provided by the permittee and other interested parties, it is my decision to implement the following changes in livestock management within this allotment.

The current authorized livestock active use shall be reduced by 1,749 AUMs, from 5,370 AUMs phased in over a 5 year period. All livestock reductions shall be placed in suspended non-use as the decision is implemented. The season of use is being changed from April 16 to May 01 to allow for sage grouse strutting and nesting.

From:

<u>Permittee</u>	<u>Season of use</u>	<u>Total preference</u>	<u>Total suspension</u>	<u>Active preference</u>
Russell	04/16 to 12/31	5,370	0	5,370

To:

<u>Permittee</u>	<u>Season of use</u>	<u>Total preference</u>	<u>Total suspension</u>	<u>Active preference</u>
Russell	05/01 to 12/31	5,370	1,749	3,621

Authorized livestock use effective year 1:

<u>Use Area</u>	<u>No.</u>	<u>Kind</u>	<u>Period of Use</u>	<u>%Fed.</u>	<u>AUMs</u>	
					<u>Active</u>	<u>Susp.</u>
Willow Ranch	594	C	05/01 to 12/31	100	4,787	583

Authorized livestock use effective year 3:

<u>Use Area</u>	<u>No.</u>	<u>Kind</u>	<u>Period of Use</u>	<u>%Fed.</u>	<u>AUMs</u>	
					<u>Active</u>	<u>Susp.</u>
Willow Ranch	522	C	05/01 to 12/31	100	4,204	1,166

Authorized livestock use effective year 5:

<u>Use Area</u>	<u>No.</u>	<u>Kind</u>	<u>Period of Use</u>	<u>%Fed.</u>	<u>AUMs</u>	
					<u>Active</u>	<u>Susp.</u>
Willow Ranch	450	C	05/01 to 12/31	100	3,621	1,749

The following rest rotation grazing scheme will be implemented the first year.

<u>YEAR 1</u>				
<u>Grazing Pasture</u>	<u>Number of Cattle</u>	<u>From</u>	<u>To</u>	
Lincoln Seeding	594 hd	05/01	06/07	
Grimes Native	594 hd	06/08	06/30	
Hillside	594 hd	07/01	07/31	
Warm Spring	594 hd	08/01	08/31	
Twin Spring	594 hd	09/01	10/07	
Jackrabbit	594 hd	10/08	11/15	
Grimes Seeding	594 hd	11/16	12/31	
Bean Flat			REST	
Wood's Seeding			REST	

<u>YEAR 2</u>				
<u>Grazing Pasture</u>	<u>Number of Cattle</u>	<u>From</u>	<u>To</u>	
Lincoln Seeding	594 hd	12/08	12/31	
Grimes Native	594 hd	11/16	12/07	
Hillside	594 hd	08/16	09/15	
Warm Spring	594 hd	07/16	08/15	
Twin Spring			REST	
Jackrabbit	594 hd	09/16	10/15	
Grimes Seeding	594 hd	10/16	11/15	
Bean Flat	594 hd	06/08	07/15	
Wood's Seeding	594 hd	05/01	06/07	

YEAR 3			
<u>Grazing Pasture</u>	<u>Number of Cattle</u>	<u>From</u>	<u>To</u>
Lincoln Seeding	522 hd	09/22	10/21
Grimes Native	522 hd	08/22	09/21
Hillside	522 hd	05/22	06/15
Warm Spring		REST	
Twin Spring	522 hd	05/01	05/21
Jackrabbit	522 hd	06/16	07/15
Grimes Seeding	522 hd	07/16	08/21
Bean Flat	522 hd	12/01	12/31
Wood's Seeding	522 hd	10/22	11/30

YEAR 4			
<u>Grazing Pasture</u>	<u>Number of Cattle</u>	<u>From</u>	<u>To</u>
Lincoln Seeding	522 hd	09/08	10/15
Grimes Native	522 hd	08/08	09/07
Hillside	522 hd	10/16	11/21
Warm Spring	522 hd	05/01	05/21
Twin Spring	522 hd	11/22	12/31
Jackrabbit		REST	
Grimes Seeding		REST	
Bean Flat	522 hd	05/22	06/30
Wood's Seeding	522 hd	07/01	08/07

YEAR 5			
<u>Grazing Pasture</u>	<u>Number of Cattle</u>	<u>From</u>	<u>To</u>
Lincoln Seeding	450 hd	12/01	12/31
Grimes Native	450 hd	11/08	11/30
Hillside		REST	
Warm Spring	450 hd	08/01	08/31
Twin Spring	450 hd	07/01	07/31
Jackrabbit	450 hd	06/08	06/30
Grimes Seeding	450 hd	05/01	06/07
Bean Flat	450 hd	09/01	10/07
Wood's Seeding	450 hd	10/08	11/07

YEAR 6			
<u>Grazing Pasture</u>	<u>Number of Cattle</u>	<u>From</u>	<u>To</u>
Lincoln Seeding		REST	
Grimes Native		REST	
Hillside	450 hd	05/01	05/21
Warm Spring	450 hd	06/22	07/31
Twin Spring	450 hd	05/22	06/21
Jackrabbit	450 hd	10/16	11/22
Grimes Seeding	450 hd	11/23	12/31
Bean Flat	450 hd	08/01	09/07
Wood's Seeding	450 hd	09/08	10/15

This illustration is limited to six years, however this sequence is intended to circulate continuously in this order. It should be understood that after year six one full cycle would be completed and the same sequence should be repeated another six years.

This rest rotation grazing scheme above shall be followed. Some grazing dates and seasons of use may need to be adjusted in the future to insure proper stocking and utilization rates for each pasture.

The following terms and conditions shall be made part of all grazing permits in the Willow Ranch Allotment:

This permit reflects your grazing preference based upon the "Allotment Evaluation" for this allotment. The term of this permit shall be for a term of ten years. The terms and/or conditions of this permit shall be amended or changed when additional and/or new monitoring data reflects the need to do so.

Actual use information will be submitted within 15 days of completing grazing use as specified on the grazing permit and grazing licenses. Because actual use records help with interpretation of monitoring data, permittees shall not be licensed the following season until actual use reports are accepted by this office. These reports are to be detailed (describe how livestock are managed, i.e. rotation schedules or pasture used and when and where), readable, accurate and completed on the appropriate actual use form. The actual use information should break out the use for each pasture.

Salt and mineral blocks will not be placed within 3/4 mile of any and all riparian areas or permanent livestock watering facilities.

Utilization of key species in the native pastures will not exceed 50% by the end of the grazing year.

Utilization of key species in the Crested wheatgrass seedings will not exceed 50% by the end of the grazing year.

All grazing will be in accordance with the rest rotation grazing schedule outlined in the Allotment Evaluation.

Rationale

The analysis and evaluation of available monitoring data indicates that current stocking levels and management practices are not meeting the LUP plan objectives for the Willow Ranch Allotment. The proposed reduction in active preference is necessary to meet specific allotment management objectives. The increased intensity of management proposed will provide needed rest during critical growth periods of the key species and allow multiple use objectives to be met.

The overall reduction of livestock numbers, changes in the season of use, and implementation of a rest rotation grazing scheme will provide needed rest during critical growth periods and allow multiple use objectives to be met. The reductions will be phased in over a 5 year period and continued monitoring should insure multiple use objectives are being met. Livestock reductions will be placed in suspended non-use as implemented.

It will be necessary to maintain healthy winterfat and shadscale/budsage communities for rodents, lagomorphs, and insects that provide a food base for the ferruginous hawk and loggerhead shrike, two category 2 candidate species on the Threatened and Endangered Species List.

Wild Horse Management

Monitoring data reflects that a thriving ecological balance is being obtained by maintaining wild horse numbers at an appropriate management level of 96 AUMs (16 head for six months) for the North Monitor Herd Management Area which occurs in the Willow Ranch Allotment.

Based on the information provided, wild horse use in the Willow Ranch Allotment shall be managed at 96 AUMs (16 animals for six months).

Rationale

The analysis and evaluation of available monitoring data indicates that multiple use management objectives for wild horses on the Willow Ranch Allotment are being met. Therefore no modifications in management actions are needed to meet the multiple use management objectives. Continued monitoring will be used to insure management objectives are being met.

Wayne NV064
Wayne King Manager
Shoshone-Eureka Resource Area

1/7/74
Date

FINAL
WILLOW RANCH
ALLOTMENT EVALUATION

BATTLE MOUNTAIN DISTRICT
SHOSHONE-EUREKA RESOURCE AREA

January, 1994

WILLOW RANCH ALLOTMENT EVALUATION
(Final)

I. Introduction

- A. Allotment Name and Number: Willow Ranch, #00062
- B. Permittee: Daniel H. Russell
- C. Evaluation Period: 1982-1993
- D. Selective Management Category and Priority: Maintain, Medium

II. Initial STOCKING LEVEL

A. Livestock Use:

- 1. Existing Preference (AUMS) :
 - a) Total Preference : 5,370
 - b) Suspended : 0
 - c) Active : 5,370
 - d) Temp Non-renewable : 0
- 2. Season of Use: April 16 to December 31
- 3. Kind and Class of Livestock: Cattle
- 4. Percent Federal Range: 100%

B. Wild Horse Use (see map 1):

- 1. The Shoshone-Eureka Land Use Plan Objectives (LUP) is to provide for 300 AUMs of forage for 50 head of horses within the North Monitor Herd Management Area (HMA). (Wild horses spend 6 months of the year in the Kelly Creek Territory on United States Forest Service Managed Lands).
- 2. 100% of the HMA is within the Willow Ranch Allotment south of state highway 50.

C. Wildlife Use (see map 2):

- 1. Big Game (Mule Deer and Antelope)
 - a) Initial numbers: 128 AUMs
 - b) Key/Critical Areas: Deer yearlong range lies up against the Forest Service boundary and southern end of the allotment. Antelope yearlong range is located throughout the Willow Ranch Allotment. No areas of critical antelope winter range are found within the allotment, however, a critical antelope fawning area, located within the east side of the allotment, was documented by the Nevada Department of Wildlife (NDOW) in 1989-1990.

2. Upland Game Bird (Sage grouse)
 - a) Initial numbers: none listed.
 - b) Key/Critical Areas: Five sage grouse strutting ground-nesting areas and one sage grouse brood rearing area are located within the allotment. Birds mate and nest in the lower elevation areas and rear broods in the highland meadows. Some brood rearing use is made of higher meadows. No information is available on wintering grounds; the lowlands on the north end of the Monitor Range are considered likely areas within the allotment.

3. Raptors
 - a) Threatened and/or Endangered: The Category 2 candidate species ferruginous hawk (Buteo regalis) is frequently observed in the allotment; summer hunting activity takes place throughout the area. One active nest was noted in a juniper tree within one mile of Paroni Spring in 1992. Four other inactive nests were found within the allotment.
 - b) Key/Critical Areas: Nest sites are located in juniper trees. Certainly there is no shortage of nest sites, nor is there likely to be. The survival of this species depends on prey availability and primary prey consists of ground squirrels in the spring and early summer and jackrabbits in late summer and fall. Raptors do not hunt well in high brush or thick sage. Important critical, key hunting areas are that of low sage and/or shadscale overstory in open stands and of white sage in solid stands.
 - c) Other hawks: Common nesting-summering species include the kestrel, the red-tailed hawk, the Swainson's hawk, the marsh hawk, the Cooper's hawk, the sharp-shinned hawk and the golden eagle. The American rough-legged hawk winters over most of the lowlands of the allotment.
 - d) Owls: The great horned owl, the screech owl, the long-eared owl, the short-eared owl and the burrowing owl are all common residents of the allotment.

4. Other Wildlife

Threatened and/or Endangered: the Category 2 candidate species pygmy rabbit (Brachylagus idahoensis) is likely to be found in scattered tall sagebrush stands in the lowlands within the allotment.

Threatened and/or Endangered: the Category 2 candidate species loggerhead shrike (Lanius ludovicianus) is found summering in the lowland and foothill tall sagebrush communities and nests in the tall sage stands.

A large variety of predatory and non-game mammals inhabit the Willow Ranch allotment. Cats include bobcat and occasional cougars, and the canine family is represented by the coyote, gray fox and kit fox. An occasional spotted skunk has been noted, and the badger is common. Over 100 species of passerine birds have been recorded as seasonally inhabiting the Willow Ranch allotment. A variety of lagomorph, mouse and vole species furnish a food base for the numerous and varied predatory species mentioned.

III. ALLOTMENT PROFILE

A. Description:

The Willow Ranch Allotment is located 35 miles west of Eureka, Nevada, on highway 50, in the Shoshone/Eureka Resource Area of the Battle Mountain District. The allotment terrain varies from level valleys to moderate mountains, with elevations ranging from 6,200 feet to 7,000 feet, respectively. Climate is characterized by warm, dry summers and cool, wet winters. Precipitation ranges from 8 inches in the valleys, to 16 inches in the mountains. The major vegetation type of the lowlands (6,000-6,500ft) is big sagebrush, with an understory of Sandberg's bluegrass, bottlebrush squirreltail, white sage, and Indian ricegrass. At the higher elevations (6,500-7,000ft), the vegetation type is primarily pinyon-juniper, big sagebrush, black sagebrush, and an understory of bottlebrush squirreltail, Thurber's needlegrass, Indian ricegrass, basin wildrye and Nevada bluegrass.

B. Acreage:

1. Land Status

There is a total of 65,011 acres in the Willow Ranch Allotment. Approximately 1,501 acres is fenced private land. (see land status map 3)

2. Pastures

The permittee's of the Willow Ranch and Dry Creek Allotments have agreed to a pasture exchange. The Willow Ranch Allotment will exchange the North Hillside pasture for the Dry Creek Allotment, Horse Pasture. There will be no change in Animal Unit Months (AUMs) for either allotment. The pasture rotation for the Willow Ranch Allotment has been set up to include the pasture exchange. The portion of the Twin Springs pasture north of highway 50, and the Horse Pasture will be referred to as the Warm Springs Pasture. This will divide the allotment into 9 pastures, they are as follows: (see pastures & seedings map 4)

pasture 1:	Grimes Seeding
pasture 2:	Lincoln Seeding
pasture 3:	Woods Seeding
pasture 4:	Bean Flat
pasture 5:	Grimes Native
pasture 6:	Hillside Native
pasture 7:	Jackrabbit Native
pasture 8:	Twin Spring Native
pasture 9:	Warm Springs

3. Wild Horse Herd Management Area Status

The North Monitor HMA lies north of the adjoining Forest Service Kelly Creek Wild Horse Territory. The North Monitor Herd Management Area is managed in conjunction with the Kelly Creek Territory by the Forest Service (Austin Ranger District) through an Interagency Agreement between the two agencies since 1984. In the agreement, the Forest Service was designated the lead agency responsible for aerial monitoring and management actions.

C. Allotment Specific Objectives:

1. Land Use Plan (LUP)/Rangeland Program Summary (RPS) Objectives.

a) Vegetation and Ecological Condition

- (1) Utilization not to exceed 50% on key species by seed dissemination, and 60% by end of grazing year.
- (2) Utilization on crested wheatgrass seedings not to exceed 50% by seed dissemination, and 70% by the end of the grazing year.

- b) Livestock Use
 - (1) In the short term, manage at existing use levels of 2,924 AUMs.
 - (2) In the long term, manage use at 2,924 AUMs.
- c) Wild Horse and Burro
 - (1) Initially manage to provide 300 AUMs of forage within the North Monitor Herd Management Area.
 - (2) Maintain or improve wild horse habitat in a condition which enhances or preserves their wild and free-roaming behavior, in conformance with other objectives of the Resource Management Plan (RMP).
 - (3) Maintain or improve wild horse habitat by free access to water, in conformance with other objectives of the RMP.
- d) Wildlife Use
 - (1) In the short term, manage at existing big game use at 8 AUMs, in conformance with other objectives of the RMP.
 - (2) In the long term, provide habitat to support 159 AUMs of big game use.
 - (3) Manage rangeland habitat to maintain or enhance sagegrouse strutting and nesting areas, in conformance with other objectives of the RMP.

2. Activity Plan Objectives

a) Allotment Management Plan

There was an Allotment Management Plan (AMP) approved for the Willow Ranch Allotment in December 1965, and a revision 1967. The AMP set up a rest rotation grazing system.

3. Threatened and/or Endangered Plant Species

a) Improve and maintain habitat for state listed sensitive species and federally listed threatened or endangered species.

b) There have been no threatened and endangered plant species identified in the allotment.

4. Threatened and/or Endangered Animal Species

a) Improve and maintain habitat for state listed sensitive species and federally listed threatened or endangered species.

- b) Although there are no known threatened and endangered animal species, two candidate species: 1) The Ferruginous hawk was observed actively nesting during the June 13-17, 1992 Ferruginous hawk flight survey (see Map 2). 2) The loggerhead shrike also nests and resides on the allotment. There are several other Category 2 candidate species that may occur in the allotment. These are as follows: The pygmy rabbit, spotted bat, black tern, western least bittern and the white-faced ibis.

D. Key Species Identification:

1. The following is a table of several Key species identified in the allotment.

Grasses

Needle and thread	(STC04)
Thurber's Needlegrass	(STTH2)
Bottlebrush squirreltail	(SIHY)
Sandberg's bluegrass	(POSE)
Nevada bluegrass	(PONE3)
Indian ricegrass	(ORHY)
Great Basin wildrye	(ELCI2)
Western wheatgrass	(AGSM)
Salt grass	(DISP)
Alkali sacaton	(SPAI)

Shrubs

Big sagebrush	(ARTR2)
Black sagebrush	(ARARN)
Low sagebrush	(ARAR8)
Shadscale	(ATCO)
Budsage	(ARSP)
White sage	(CELA)
Mormon tea	(EPHED)
Black greasewood	(SAVE4)
Douglas rabbitbrush	(CHVI8)
Spiny hopsage	(GRSP)

Forbs

Astragalus	(ASTRA)
Phlox	(PHLOX)
Scarlet globemallow	(SPCO)

2. The following list includes key species for wildlife in the Willow Ranch allotment.

Grasses All grasses listed in the previous section are used by mule deer in the green-up period; all may be used by nesting sage grouse in April-May. Thus they are considered key wildlife grasses.

<u>Shrubs</u>	Black sagebrush	(ARARN)
	Low sagebrush	(ARAR8)
	Budsage	(ARSP5)
	White sage	(CELA)
	Douglas rabbitbrush	(CHVI8)
	Big sagebrush	(ARTR2)

3. Riparian Areas
No riparian objectives were stated in the RPS.

IV. Management Evaluation

A. Purpose:

Determine whether or not existing uses are consistent with attainment of the Land Use Plan objectives and if they are not, to make the necessary adjustment so that our multiple uses will be consistent with the Land Use Plan.

B. Summary of Studies Data:

1. See appendix A₁ - A₂₀ for summary data in graph form.

2. Actual Use

a) Livestock AUMs:

(1) Daniel Russell - 5,370 AUMs Active preference. All other use was temporary-nonrenewable.

*	04/01/82 - 07/31/82	=	1,568
	09/10/82 - 01/31/83	=	<u>2,095</u>
		Total	3,595 AUMs
*	05/07/83 - 02/28/84	=	4,756 AUMs
*	03/01/84 - 07/09/84	=	2,785
	11/01/84 - 12/31/84	=	<u>1,200</u>
		Total	3,985 AUMs

*	04/22/85 - 07/18/85	=	1,740
	08/01/85 - 12/30/85	=	<u>2,650</u>
	Total		4,390 AUMs
*	04/27/86 - 10/30/86	=	1,673
	11/15/86 - 01/31/87	=	<u>1,241</u>
	Total		2,914 AUMs
*	04/05/87 - 12/31/87	=	3,321 AUMs
**	04/16/88 - 12/31/88	=	4,188 AUMs
**	04/16/89 - 12/31/89	=	4,197 AUMs
***	04/05/90 - 10/30/90	=	137
**	04/15/90 - 12/31/90	=	<u>4,554</u>
	Total		4,691 AUMs
**	03/10/91 - 12/31/91	=	3,530 AUMs
**	04/16/92 - 02/28/93	=	2,872 AUMs

- * AUMs taken from Actual Use Reports.
- ** AUMs taken from Grazing Bills.
- *** AUMs were used by domestic horses. All use was Temporary non-renewable and north of fenced highway 50 outside the North Monitor Herd Management Area.

Total livestock use ranged from a low of 2,872 AUMs to a high of 4,756 AUMs; average use equalled 3,858 AUMs.

- b) Existing numbers of big game use at present is 128 AUMs (NDOW 1993).
- c) Existing numbers of wild horses at present is 96 AUMs.

3. Precipitation

- a) Precipitation data was collected at Austin and at the Diamond Valley weather station near Eureka, Nevada (see appendix A₁ - A₂₀ for graphs):

<u>STATION</u>	<u>AVG.</u>	<u>1980</u>	<u>1981</u>	<u>1982</u>	<u>1983</u>	<u>1984</u>	<u>1985</u>	<u>1986</u>
Austin		10.4	16.8	22.3	17.7	15.8	15.8	5.9
Diamond Valley		11.5*	5.93*	13.3	16.9	8.2	5.2	7.0

<u>STATION</u>	<u>AVG.</u>	<u>1987</u>	<u>1988</u>	<u>1989</u>	<u>1990</u>	<u>1991</u>	<u>1992</u>
Austin	18.9	15.7	10.6	*	14.0*	*	
Diamond Valley	12.5	9.22	6.71	10.9	11.4	*	

* = Incomplete data

4. Utilization (refer to appendix A₁ - A₂₀ for graphs)
- a) Key Areas (see map 5)
 There are 20 key areas located within the Willow Ranch Allotment. Utilization estimates and dates collected are tabulated below:

- (1) Key Area # 1 (native range east of Woods Seeding): Key Species: Indian ricegrass (ORHY), squirreltail (SIHY)

<u>Dates</u>	<u>Utilization Estimates</u>
03/03/82	38%
06/28/84	10%
09/05/90	62%
03/01/91	71%
12/05/91	25%
11/17/92	12%

- (2) Key Area # 2 (Paroni Spring): Key species: Indian ricegrass (ORHY), squirreltail (SIHY), needle and thread (STCO4)

<u>Dates</u>	<u>Utilization Estimates</u>
03/25/82	47%
09/06/90	64%
03/21/91	74%
12/05/91	29%
11/19/92	62%

- (3) Key Area # 3 (native range east of Paroni Spring): Key species Indian ricegrass (ORHY), needle and thread (STCO4), squirreltail (SIHY)

<u>Dates</u>	<u>Utilization Estimates</u>
03/25/82	30%
06/28/84	20%
09/06/90	64%
03/12/91	74%
12/05/91	60%
11/19/92	62%

- (4) Key Area # 4 (spray area): Key species: Indian ricegrass (ORHY), needle and thread (STCO4), squirreltail (SIHY)

<u>Dates</u>	<u>Utilization Estimates</u>
03/25/82	30%
03/22/84	64%
09/05/90	71%
03/21/91	36%
12/05/91	49%
10/08/92	38%

- (5) Key Area # 5 (Pedlar Creek): Key species: Indian ricegrass (ORHY), squirreltail (SIHY), needle and thread (STCO4)

<u>Dates</u>	<u>Utilization Estimates</u>
03/25/82	39%
07/06/83	20%
09/05/90	17%
03/21/91	54%
12/06/91	53%
10/08/92	30%

- (6) Key Area # 6 (west of Jackrabbit Spring): Key species: Indian ricegrass (ORHY), squirreltail (SIHY), needle and thread (STCO4)

<u>Dates</u>	<u>Utilization Estimates</u>
03/03/82	20%
07/06/83	0%
03/22/84	42%
09/05/90	7%
03/21/91	50%
12/05/91	54%
11/19/92	26%

- (7) Key Area # 7 (Grimes Seeding): Key species: crested wheatgrass (AGCR)

<u>Dates</u>	<u>Utilization Estimates</u>
03/03/82	90%
07/06/83	0%
03/21/84	51%
06/11/85	62%
07/01/85	82%
09/05/90	70%
03/21/91	68%
12/04/91	77%
11/19/91	82%

- (12) Key Area # 12 (Warm Springs): Key species: Indian ricegrass (ORHY), squirreltail (SIHY)

<u>Dates</u>	<u>Utilization Estimates</u>
09/05/90	30%
03/26/91	2%
12/18/91	41%
12/17/92	24%

- (13) Key Area # 13 (Woods Seeding): Key species: crested wheatgrass (AGCR)

<u>Dates</u>	<u>Utilization Estimates</u>
05/30/84	58%
09/06/90	70%
03/21/91	86%
12/18/91	87%
12/17/92	37%

- (14) Key Area # 14 (Woods Seeding): Key species: crested wheatgrass (AGCR)

<u>Dates</u>	<u>Utilization Estimates</u>
03/02/82	79%
05/16/85	70%
09/06/90	70%
03/21/91	86%
12/18/91	87%
12/17/92	29%

- (15) Key Area # 15 (Bean Flat): Key species: alkali sacaton (SPAI), saltgrass (DISP), basin wildrye (ELCI2), wiregrass (JUNCU), Sandberg's bluegrass (POSE)

<u>Dates</u>	<u>Utilization Estimates</u>
09/01/82	30%
10/20/82	68%
09/09/83	56%
12/18/91	57%
12/17/92	14%

(16) Key Area # 16 (North Hillside Pasture):
 Key species: Indian ricegrass (ORHY),
 squirreltail (SIHY), needle and thread
 (STCO4)

<u>Dates</u>	<u>Utilization Estimates</u>
06/28/84	10%
03/26/91	21%
12/18/91	16%
12/17/92	28%

(17) Key Area # 17 (Bean Flat south): Key
 species: basin wildrye (ELCI2), squirrel
 tail (SIHY), alkali sacaton (SPAI) black
 greasewood (SAVE4), spiny horsebrush
 (TESP2)

<u>Dates</u>	<u>Utilization Estimates</u>
09/09/83	52%
12/18/91	38%
12/17/92	25%

(18) Key Area # 18 (Twin Springs Pasture):
 Key species: Indian ricegrass (ORHY),
 white sage (CELA), squirreltail (SIHY),
 budsage (ARSP5), viscid rabbitbrush
 (CHVI4)

<u>Dates</u>	<u>Utilization Estimates</u>
03/22/84	47%
03/21/91	84%
12/05/91	58%
11/19/92	74%

(19) Key Area # 19 (west of Lincoln Seeding):
 Key species: Indian ricegrass (ORHY),
 squirrel tail (SIHY), viscid rabbitbrush
 (CHVI4), white sage (CELA), needle and
 thread (STCO4)

<u>Dates</u>	<u>Utilization Estimates</u>
03/03/82	62%
07/06/83	67%
05/16/85	34%
09/06/90	40%
03/21/91	58%
12/05/91	58%
12/16/92	27%

(20) Key Area # 20 (Grimes Pasture): Key species: Indian ricegrass (ORHY), squirrel tail (SIHY), viscid rabbitbrush (CHVI4), needle and thread (STCO4)

<u>Dates</u>	<u>Utilization Estimates</u>
03/03/82	64%
07/06/83	28%
05/15/84	32%
05/17/85	37%
09/06/90	40%
03/21/91	58%
12/05/91	47%
12/16/92	35%

b) Mule deer and antelope yearlong range. Key species utilization transects.

Willow Ranch Allotment - 10/8/92
 Location: T 19N., R 50E., sec. 19, 36

Percent Utilization			

Transect	1	2	AVG
Species			
ARARN	32	50	41
ARSP5	--	--	
ATCO	36	--	36
CELA*	74	70	72
SIHY	46	--	46
ORHY+	41	61	51
CHVI8	--	34	34
GRSP	--	34	34

* Key browse
 + Key grass

Location: T 18N., R 49E., Secs. 11NE, 2SW, 3SE, 4
 - stops 3-7

Percent Utilization						
Transect Species	1	2	3	4	5	AVG
CHVI8	51	48	39	46	30	42.8
STCO4	83	29	33		16	40.3
SIHY	50	13				31.5
ORHY+	70	33	28	30	13	34.8
ARARN*		54		34	28	38.7
ARTR2			17			17.0

* Key browse
 + Key grass

Location: T 19N., R 49E., Secs. 33SE, 34S -
 stops 8 & 9

Percent Utilization			
Transect Species	1	2	AVG
CHVI8	38	12	25.0
ORHY+	29	43	36.0
STCO4	26		26.0
ARARN*	16	49	32.5

* Key browse
 + Key grass

c) Use Pattern Mapping (see maps 6_A - 6_C):

Four use pattern maps were completed for the Willow Ranch Allotment. They were compiled September 1990, March 1991, for the 1990 grazing year, December 1991 for the 1991 grazing year, and December 1992 for the 1992 grazing year. The September 1990, and March 1991 maps were combined into one map because they both represent the 1990 grazing year.

5. Trend
Two Parker three step transects and one Deming two phase condition and trend method write-ups were made within the allotment during 1964. These condition and trend studies indicated that the entire allotment was in fair condition with a static trend. Approximately six range photo plots were set up in the spring of 1966. The data from these plots are inconclusive. No further trend data has been collected to date.
6. Range Survey Data
Refer to the 1964 range survey for Roberts Creek unit.
7. Ecological Status
No Ecological Site Inventory data has been gathered at this time.
8. Wildlife Habitat
An antelope winter range long-term condition and trend study was set up in the allotment in 1983. The rating was in fair condition (42) at that time and in fair condition in 1987 (40). Since 1987, the area has not been considered as critical winter range for antelope, but as yearlong range (NDOW 1993). The study site will be read and evaluated for the Dry Creek Allotment Evaluation. White sage occurring in the allotment is considered key habitat for pronghorn antelope. A critical fawning cover study was set up on 6/4/93. Percent composition of vegetation, vertical cover and horizontal cover was calculated and rated at poor condition (20) for the allotment (POOR = 5-30 based on BLM 6630 Manual).

Sage grouse strutting and nesting complexes are recorded at the following locations: (see Map 2)

<u>Township</u>	<u>Range</u>	<u>Section</u>	<u>Area</u>
18 N.	48 E.	2	Jackrabbit Pasture
18 N.	48 E.	5	Grimes Pasture
18 N.	48 E.	8	Grimes Seeding
19 N.	48 E.	36	Jackrabbit Pasture
19 N.	49 E.	20,21,28,29	Hillside Pasture

Nesting cover analyses have not been made on these grounds at present. However, any measures taken to limit spring grazing in the strutting-nesting complexes will benefit the present population.

Brood rearing areas do not have any formal studies at present, but if the range condition objectives in the Rangeland Program Summary are met, the brood rearing potential of the allotment will be measurably increased.

A variety of raptors inhabit the allotment. Red-tailed hawks and American rough-legged hawks are seasonal residents. A large population of rodent and avian prey must be present to maintain large and varied raptor populations.

9. Riparian Habitat
Due to the lack of water there is no opportunity for riparian management within the Willow Ranch Allotment.
10. Wild Horse and Burro Habitat
Wild horse habitat ratings have not been established for the HMA.

V. Conclusions

The following objectives have or have not been met.
Land Use Plan/Rangeland Program Summary (RPS)

A. Vegetation and Ecological Condition:

1. This objective has been partially met for the native vegetation; overall utilization calculated from use pattern maps met RPS objectives in 1991 and 1992, but exceeded RPS objectives in 1990.

<u>Grazing Year</u>	<u>Native Pastures Utilization levels</u>	<u>Acres</u>
1992	Heavy/Severe Use	6,451
	Moderate Use	19,867
	Light Use	30,280
1991	Heavy/Severe Use	8,857
	Moderate Use	22,526
	Light Use	25,215
1990	Heavy/Severe Use	26,754
	Moderate Use	17,741
	Light Use	12,103

2. This objective has been partially met for the seedings; overall utilization calculated from use pattern maps met RPS objectives in 1991 and 1992 but exceeded RPS objectives in 1990 (see appendix B). Utilization readings in key areas have met RPS objectives some years, however some utilization readings have exceeded the RPS objectives.

<u>Grazing Year</u>	<u>Seedings Utilization Levels</u>	<u>Acres</u>
1992	Heavy/Severe Use	3,020
	Moderate Use	1,510
	Light Use	2,382
1991	Heavy/Severe Use	4,952
	Moderate Use	1,549
	Light Use	411
1990	Heavy/Severe Use	6,912
	Moderate Use	0
	Light Use	0

B. Livestock Use:

- 1,2. Since average livestock use during the evaluation period was 3,858 AUMs, these objectives were met.

C. Wild Horse Use:

1. This objective has been partially met. The wild horses have been using 96 AUMs in the HMA and vegetation objectives in the Herd area are being met.
2. This objective has been met. These horses are wild and freely roam into the adjacent Kelly Creek Territory on United States Forest Service managed lands.
3. This objective has been met. Wild horses have access to perennial springs in the HMA and adjoining Forest Service Territory.

D. Wildlife Use: (RPS, 1988)

1. In the short term, manage at existing big game use at 8 AUMs, in conformance with other objectives of the Resource Management Plan (RMP). This objective has been met.

2. In the long term, provide habitat to support 159 AUMs of big game use. Pronghorn antelope numbers are low at the present time with less than 50 animals or about 120 AUMs (NDOW 1993). The total number of AUMs for big game is 128 AUMs, therefore, this objective has not been met. Improving the area to a good habitat condition (61-100) is important to antelope due to the critical fawning area. In fact, the entire allotment should be maintained in a good habitat condition for antelope and other wildlife throughout the year.
3. Manage rangeland habitat to maintain or enhance vegetative conditions in sagegrouse strutting and nesting areas, in conformance with other objectives of the RMP. Sufficient data is not available to indicate sage grouse strutting and nesting area enhancement. Therefore, it cannot be determined whether this objective has been met or not. Further studies are required.

E. Threatened and Endangered Species:

1. Improve and maintain habitat for state listed sensitive species and federally listed threatened or endangered species. Sufficient data is not available to indicate habitat enhancement for T&E species. Therefore, it cannot be determined whether this objective has been met or not. Further studies and surveys are required.

VI. Technical Recommendations

Over-utilization of key forage species in the Willow Ranch Allotment is a serious range management problem. Although some recent changes in livestock use has helped to alleviate the problem of wide-spread severe overuse, there still exists many acres that show over-utilization.

In order to achieve the management objectives specified in the RPS, utilization levels must be reduced and excessive grazing of key species must be avoided. Keeping utilization at or below recommended use levels will allow the key species to complete their growth cycles, become more vigorous and re-establish in disturbed areas.

The heaviest use levels observed were in 1990. This is also the same year the permittee used the most AUMs. As the permittee reduced livestock use in 1991 and 1992, there was a noticeable decrease in over utilization of the key species. The precipitation levels were constant during these years as well.

1. Changing current grazing management practices so they are compatible with specific key area management objectives and those identified in the RMP. In order to reduce the utilization on the key species, the following options were derived from the 1990, 1991 and 1992 use data. Livestock reductions were calculated using the following relationship:

$$\frac{\text{Actual Use (AUMS)}}{\text{Actual Utilization}} = \frac{\text{Desired Use (AUMS)}}{\text{Desired Utilization}}$$

Reductions for livestock will be made from active preference.

- a) Determination of adjustments based on weighted average percent utilization calculations.

- (1) Average actual and estimated use 1990, 1991 and 1992.

Permittee	=	3,697 AUMs
Horses	=	96 AUMs
Wildlife	=	<u>128 AUMs</u>
Total		3,921 AUMs

- (2) Utilization

The adjusted total weighted averages by year (see appendix C for calculations).

1990	80%	weighted average seedings	=	2,134
1990	68%	weighted average native	=	2,185
1991	66%	weighted average seedings	=	1,947
1991	56%	weighted average native	=	2,055
1992	70%	weighted average seedings	=	1,493
1992	53%	weighted average native	=	1,815

(3) Average Desired Use
 Seedings = 1,858 AUMs
 Native = 2,018 AUMs
 Total = 3,876 AUMs

(4) Active Preference (P); Average Actual and Estimated Use 1982-1992 (H); Long-Term RPS Objective. (WL).

Permittee = 5,370 AUMs
 Horses = 96 AUMs
 Wildlife = 159 AUMs
 AUMs Total Demand = 5,625 AUMs

(5) Total demand for the allotment = 5,625
 Desired use for the allotment = 3,876
 Reduction needed = 1,749

(6) Prorated adjustments

Cattle: 1,749 X 100% = 1,749 AUM reduc.

Horses: 1,749 X 0% = 0 AUM reduction

Wildlife: 1,749 X 0% = 0 AUM reduction

The following tabulations reflect AUM changes that will occur based upon the above reductions:

<u>Permittee</u>	<u>Total</u>	<u>Original</u>	<u>Active</u>	<u>New</u>	<u>New</u>
Dan Russell	<u>Pref.</u>	<u>Susp.</u>	<u>Pref.</u>	<u>Susp.</u>	<u>Act.Pref</u>
	5,370	0	5,370	1,749	3,621

	<u>RMP</u>	<u>Avg.</u>	<u>Proposed</u>	<u>New</u>
Wild Horses	<u>Allocation</u>	<u>Act.</u>	<u>Reduction</u>	<u>AML</u>
	300	96	0	96

	<u>RMP</u>	<u>Avg.</u>	<u>Proposed</u>
Wildlife	<u>Allocation</u>	<u>Act.</u>	<u>Reduction</u>
	159	128	0

The wild horses inhabating this allotment utilize the jackrabbit pasture. The jackrabbit pasture has generally received moderate use during the evaluation period. Because wild horses are not a problem, the wild horses in the Willow Ranch Allotment will not receive an AUM reduction at this time.

Wildlife have been allocated 159 AUMs in the RPS but are currently using 128 AUMs. Due to the small number of game species in the Willow Ranch Allotment there will be no AUM reduction for wildlife at this time.

2. This evaluation finding and subsequent decision will replace the existing Allotment Management Plan (AMP) and the following will implemented:
 - a) The season of use should be changed from April 16 to May 01 to further maintain and enhance sage grouse strutting, nesting, and brood rearing areas.
 - b) The rest rotation grazing scheme in appendix D should be followed. Some grazing dates and seasons of use may need to be adjusted in the future to insure proper stocking and utilization rates for each pasture.
 - c) Change the utilization objective in the LUP/RPS for crested wheatgrass seedings to 50% by the end of the grazing year, this would increase plant health and vigor as well as provide more cover for wildlife.
 - d) Change the utilization objective in the LUP/RPS for the native pastures to 50% by the end of the year, this would increase plant stubble height which would benefit prey species of the ferruginous hawk and loggerhead shrike.
3. Vegetation Manipulation:
 - a) Use controlled burning, mechanical control and or chemical spraying of stagnant sagebrush and pinyon/juniper stands to reestablish native grass species.
 - b) Determine whether the existing seedings or sprays are of value to respray or to manage them as they are now.
4. Evaluate Existing and Future Water Sources:
 - a) Develop water in pastures lacking reliable water in conjunction with the wild horse and wildlife specialists.

- b) Evaluate all existing wells to determine where repairs are required and which wells are dry. This needs to be done in conjunction with wild horses and wildlife to determine local watering needs.
5. Collect Actual Use By Pasture:
- a) Require the permittee to turn in actual use reports on a pasture by pasture basis. If actual use is not reported by the end of the grazing season the following grazing season application will be denied until the actual use reports are submitted to the Bureau of Land Management.
6. Retain the 96 AUMs currently being utilized by wild horses in this allotment, and set the short term AML for this HMA at 96 AUMs (16 head for six months).
7. The following recommendation is to update the RMP, and AMP for the Willow Ranch Allotment:
- a) Establish a wildlife objective to read as follows: "Utilization of key browse not to exceed 50% in terrestrial big game habitat areas."
 - b) Establish a wildlife objective to read as follows: Improve the Twin Springs pasture, Jackrabbit pasture and south Hillside pasture to a good habitat condition for all big game areas as measured by BLM 6630 Manual long term condition studies. Achieving this objective will protect critical fawning areas. Key areas corresponding to critical antelope fawning areas for 1992 are shown in appendix E.
 - c) Change the LUP/RPS sage grouse objectives to read: "Manage rangeland habitat to maintain or enhance sage grouse strutting, nesting and brood rearing areas, in conformance with other objectives of the RMP."
8. It is recommended that grazing within a 2-mile radius of major sage grouse strutting ground complexes (See map 2) be prohibited from March 1 to June 1, every year, to increase sagebrush canopy cover (20 to 30%), understory cover, and forb volume and variety. It is further recommended that pastures containing a strutting-nesting area be given a year's rest, one out of every three years, to further rebuild the vegetative condition to one suitable for sage grouse production.

Excluded from the recommendation would be artificial seeding areas. Sage grouse are observed strutting in some of these seedings. However, these seedings are very poor nesting habitat. By allowing the reestablishment of sagebrush on sage grouse range, except for upland meadows will provide suitable habitat. For these reasons, the sagebrush areas adjacent to the strutting ground should be protected, when the ground is located within a seeding, but not the ground itself.

9. The candidate species ferruginous hawk hunts and nests within the allotment. At present the species seems to be doing fairly well; frequent observations are reported. It is recommended that raptor nest sites be monitored and trees within a 2-mile radius of nesting areas be excluded from any cutting or burning projects. Measures which will increase the understory cover in the sage grouse production areas will also result in higher rodent populations, thus bettering ferruginous hawk habitat. Further study of the species is required.
10. Loggerhead shrikes hunt and nest throughout the sagebrush areas of the allotment; conditions at present seem to favor the species. Nothing proposed in the Multiple Use Decision will affect the species adversely. Further study of the species is recommended.
11. Pygmy rabbits may inhabit the lower reaches of the sagebrush community, and are likely to be found in the taller sage stands. All that can be recommended at this time are continued inventory efforts and further study of the species should it be located in the allotment.

VII. Consultation

- A. Beetch, Neal
- Shoshone/Eureka Resource Area Range Conservationist
- B. Beetch, Sarah
- Shoshone/Eureka Resource Area Range Conservationist
- C. Bond, Tim
- U.S. Forest Service Austin Ranger District Range Conservationist
- D. Dobrich, Valerie
- Shoshone/Eureka Resource Area Wild Horse and Burro Specialist
- E. Graham, Kathy
- Shoshone/Eureka Resource Area Wildlife Biologist
- F. Hamlin, Robin
- U.S Fish and Wildlife Service
- G. Heisinger, Jennifer
- U.S. Forest Service Austin Ranger District Range Conservationist
- H. Munson, Lloyd
- Shoshone/Eureka Resource Area Range Technician
- I. Oyler, Rick
- Shoshone/Eureka Resource Area Range Conservationist
(Lead Preparer)
- J. Podborny, Mike
- Nevada Department of Wildlife
- K. Sherwood, Bob
- Shoshone/Eureka Resource Area Wildlife Biologist
- L. Thompson, Floyd
- Shoshone/Eureka Resource Area Supervisor Range Conservationist
- M. Ward, Dave
- Fish Creek Ranch Manager
- N. Weeks, Jeff
- Battle Mountain District Range Specialist
- O. Winnepenninkx, John
- Battle Mountain District Wild Horse and Burro Specialist.

UNITED STATES
DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
BUREAU OF LAND MANAGEMENT

APPENDIX A-1

ALLOTMENT EVALUATION SUMMARY

District

Battle Mountain

Planning Area

Shoshone/Eureka

Date

Allotment

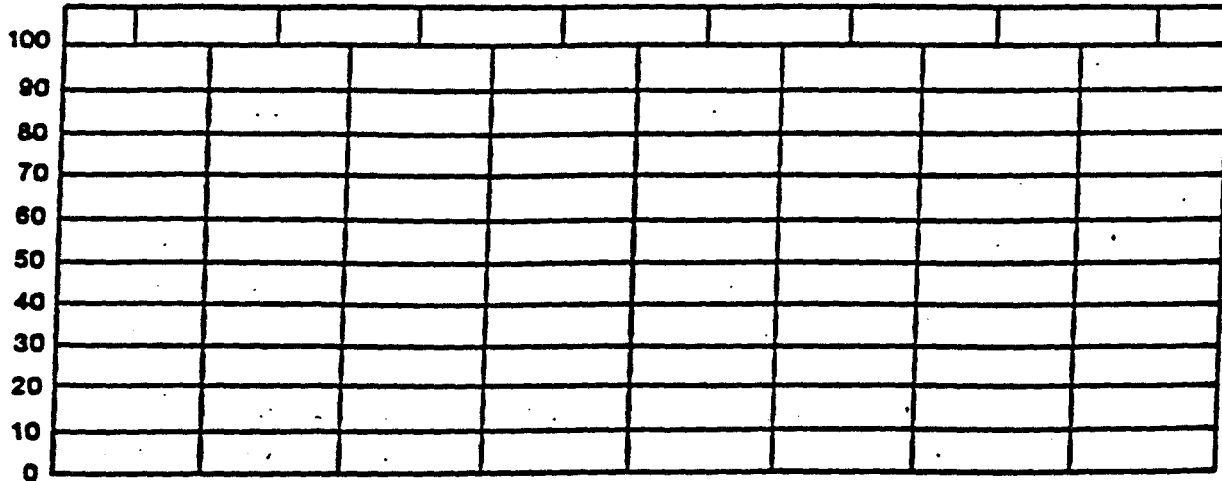
Willow Ranch

Key Management Area

Key Area # 1

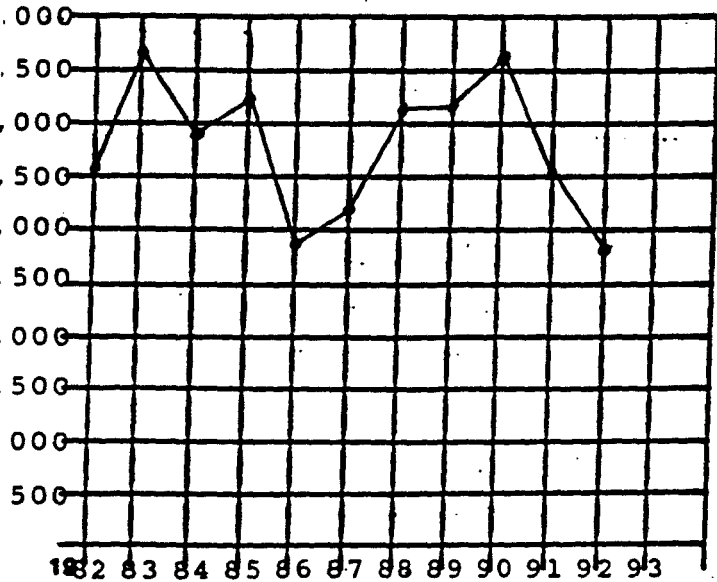
Trend Index (Frequency)
Date

Code
Key Species-Color

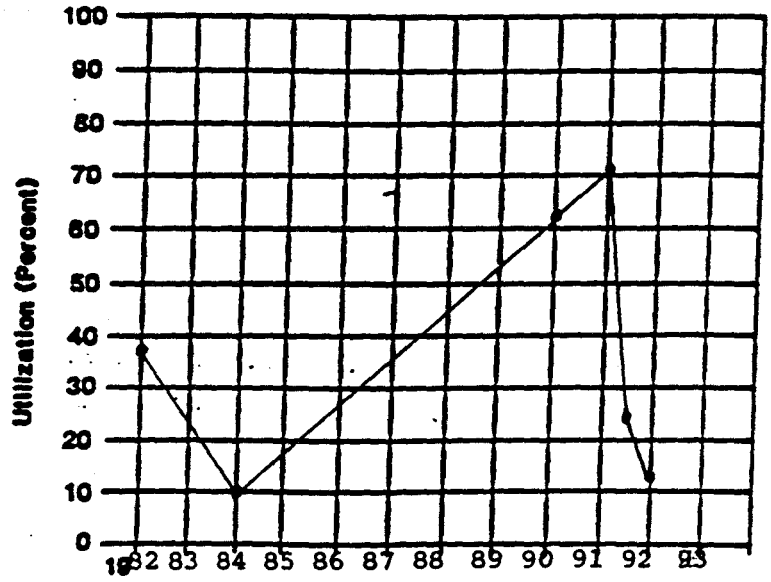


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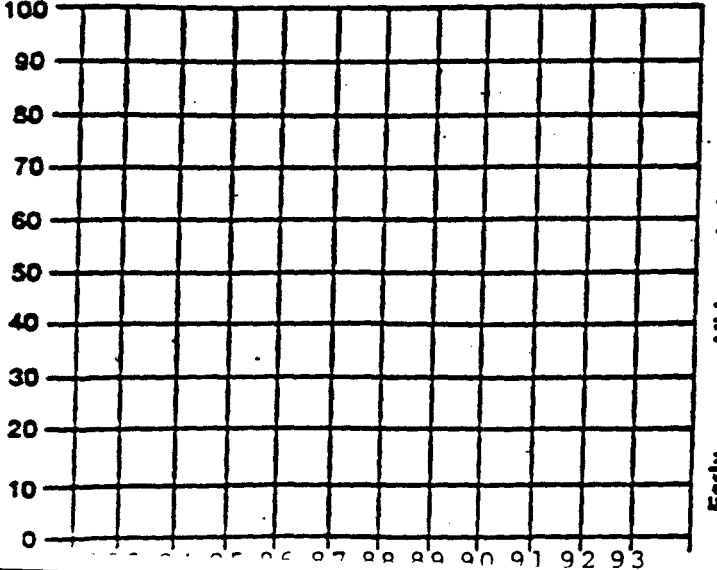
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Legend—Wildlife—livestock.

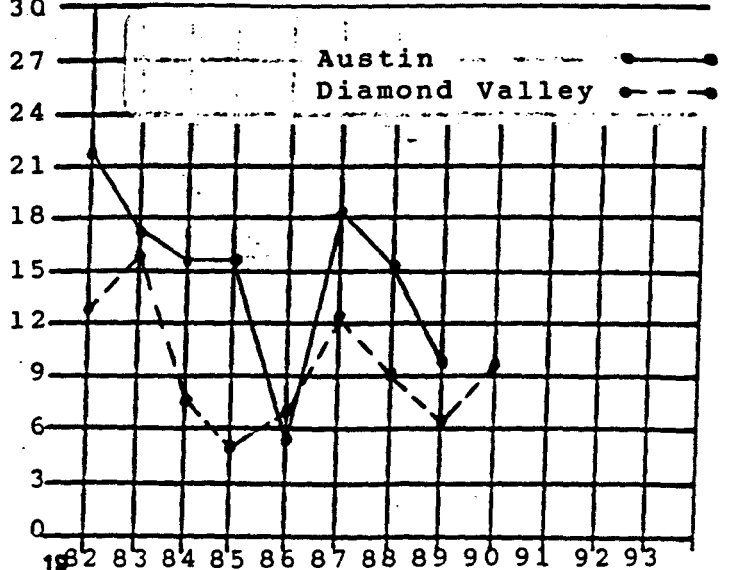


Legend—Actual—Allowable



Early Mid Late PNC

Precipitation (inches)



Austin

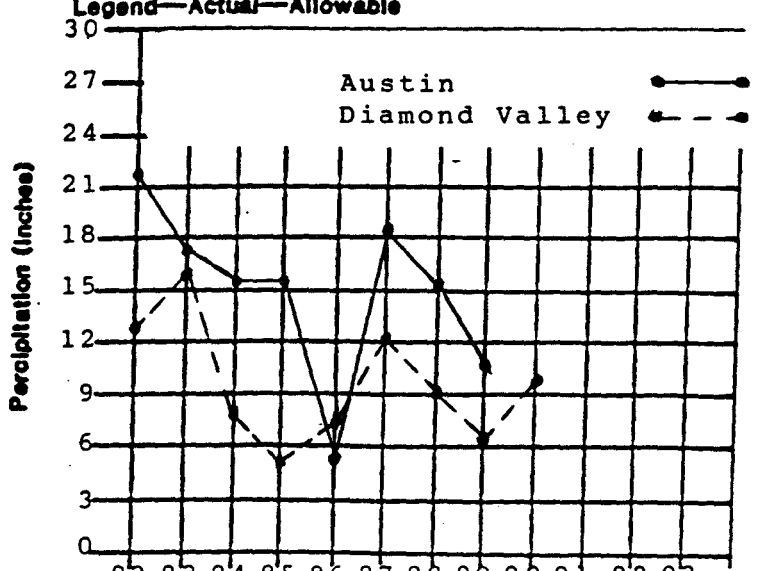
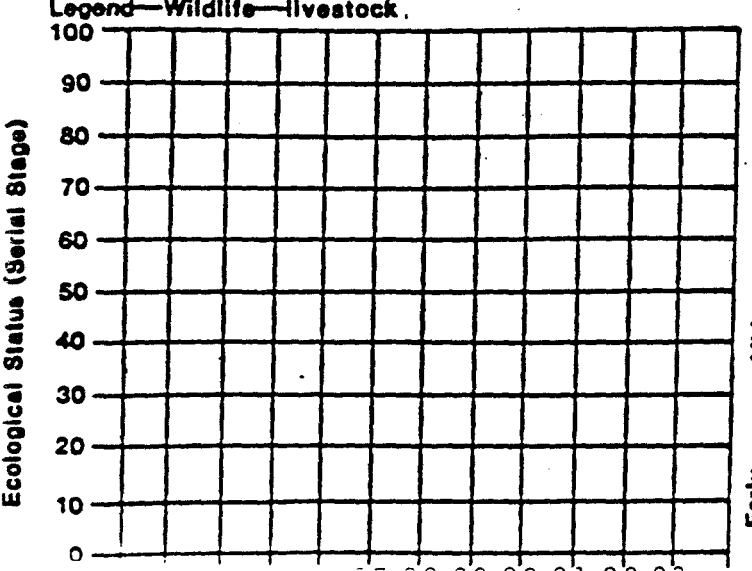
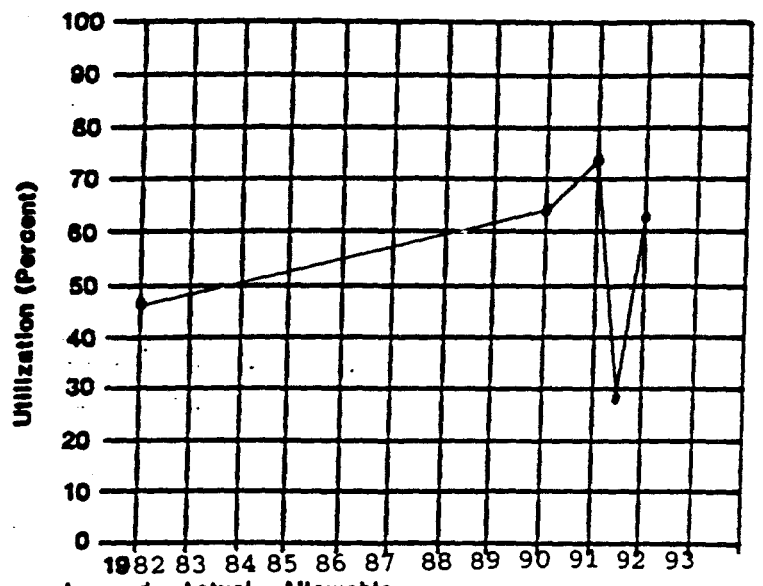
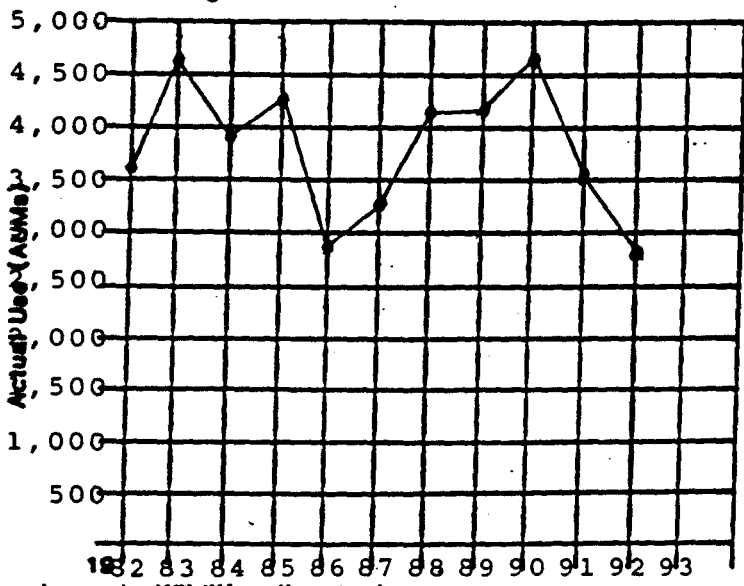
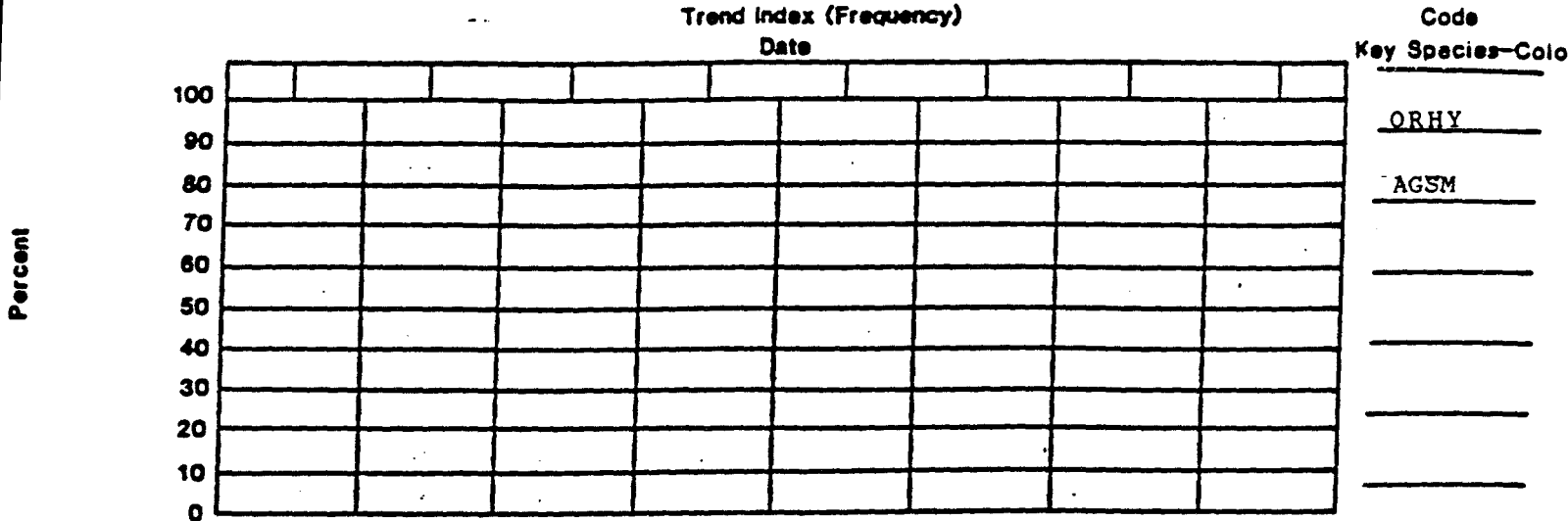
Diamond Valley

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ALLOTMENT EVALUATION SUMMARY

District Battle Mountain	
Planning Area Shoshone/Eureka	Date

Allotment Willow Ranch	Key Management Area Key Area # 2
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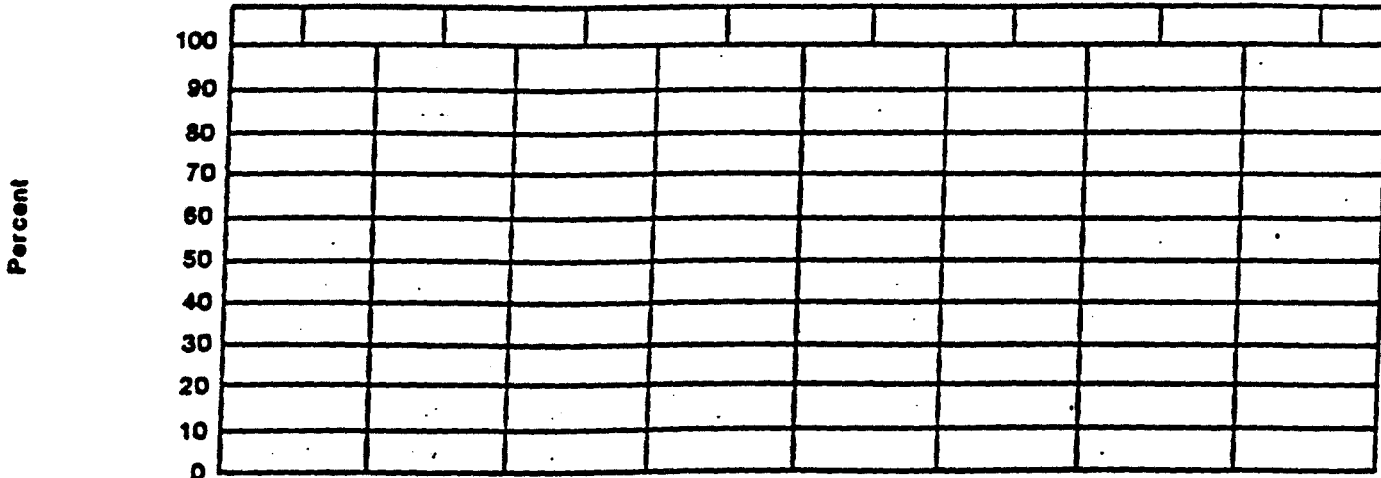
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District
Battle Mountain
Planning Area
Shoshone/Eureka
Date

ALLOTMENT EVALUATION SUMMARY

Allotment Willow Ranch Key Management Area Key Area # 3

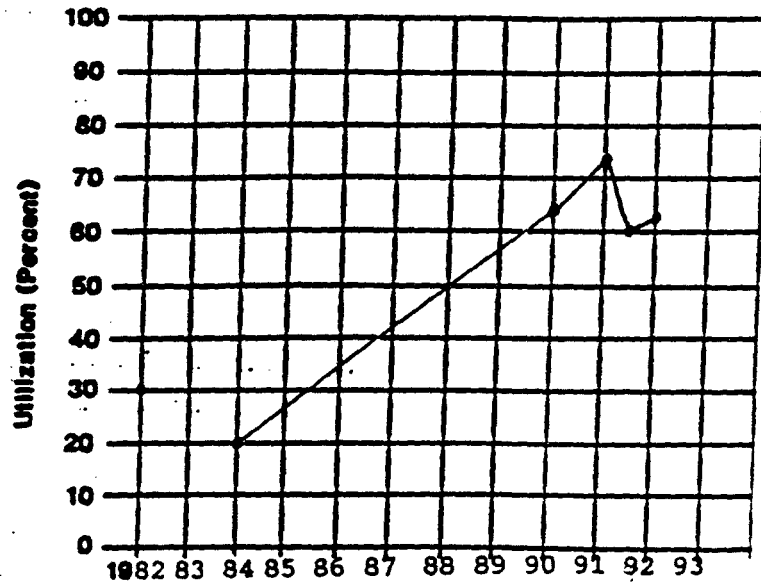
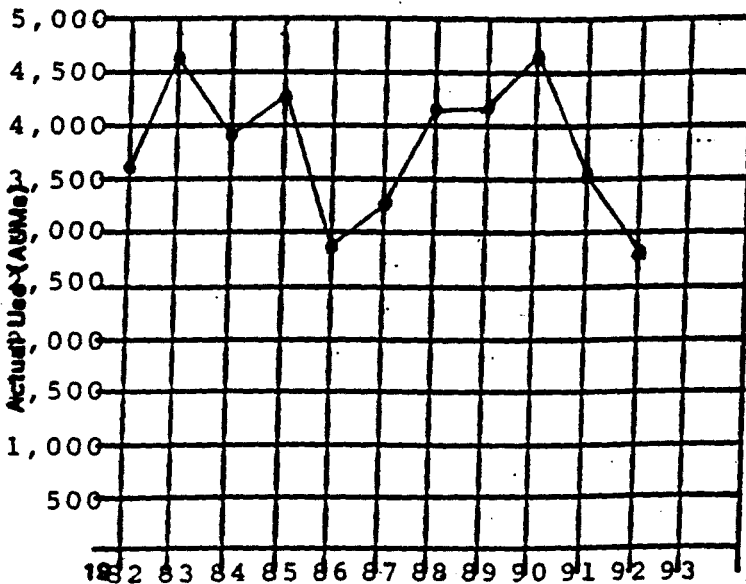
Trend Index (Frequency)
Date



Code
Key Species

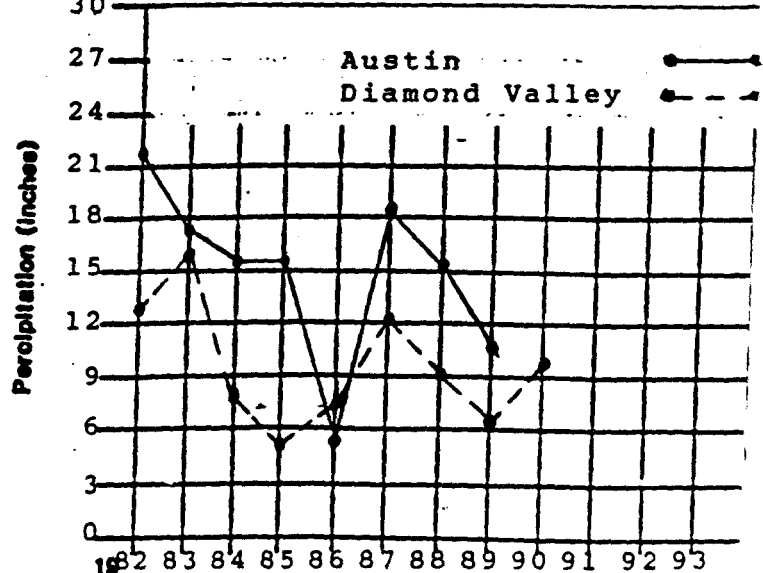
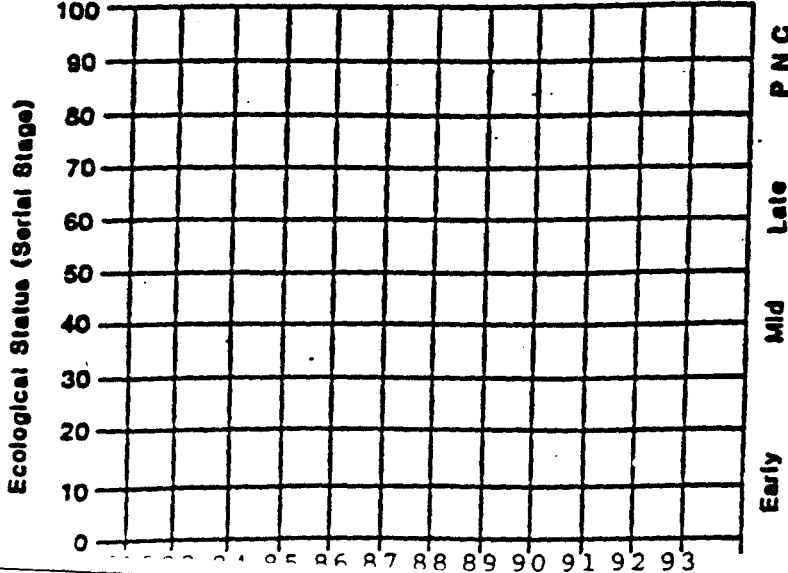
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Legend—Wildlife—livestock.

Legend—Actual—Allowable



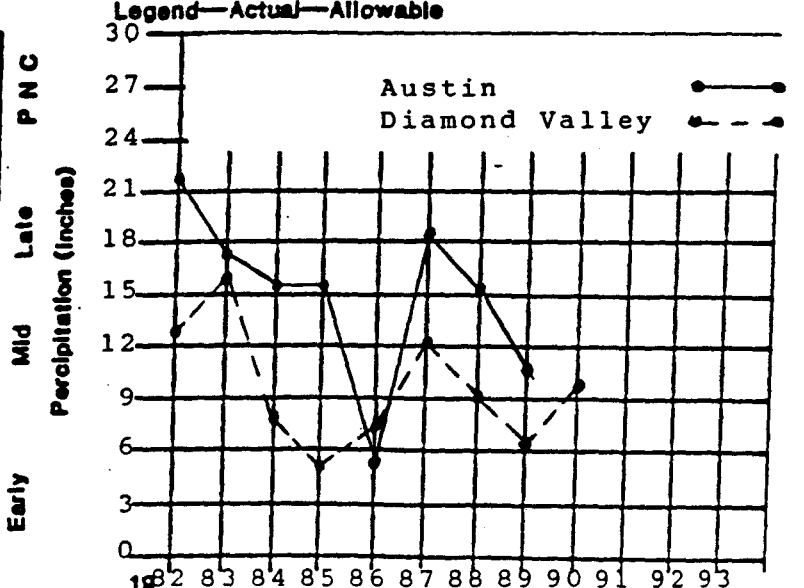
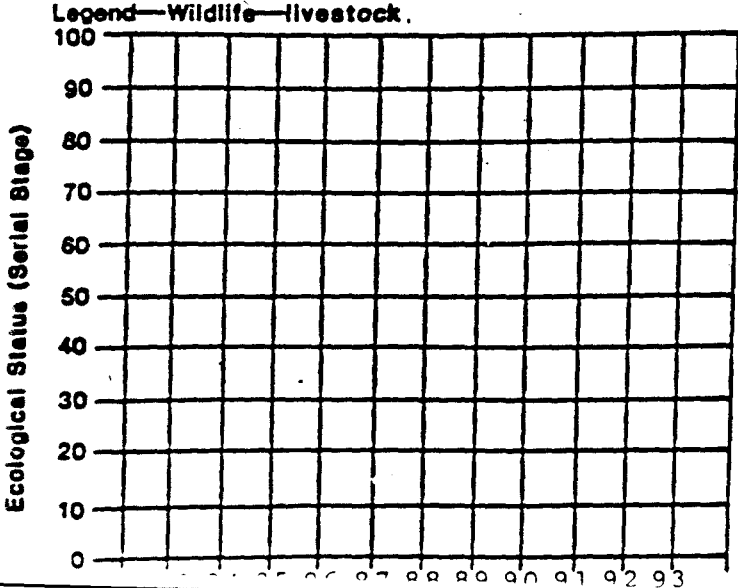
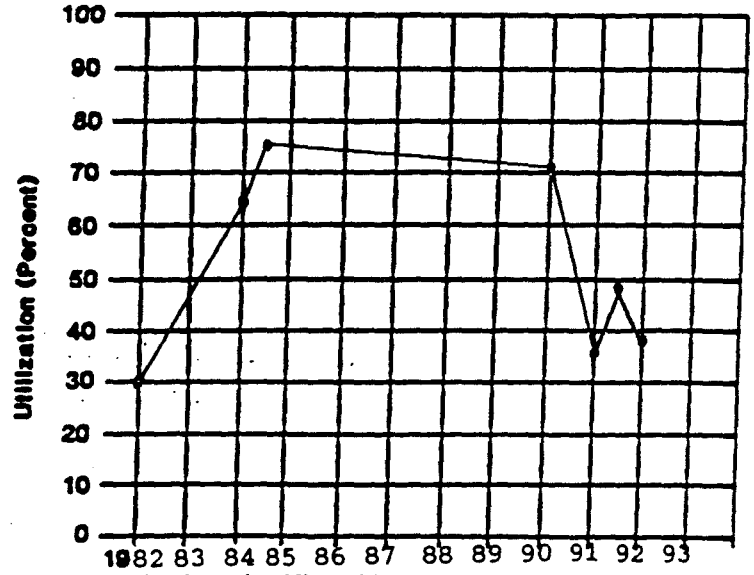
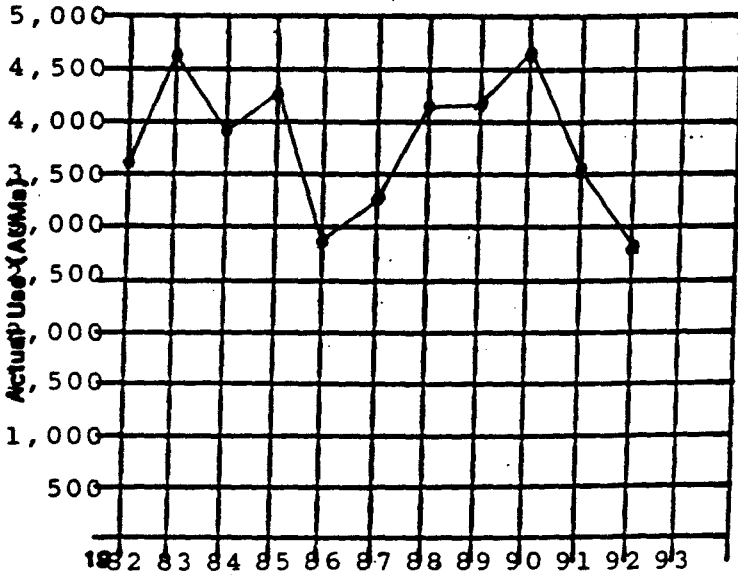
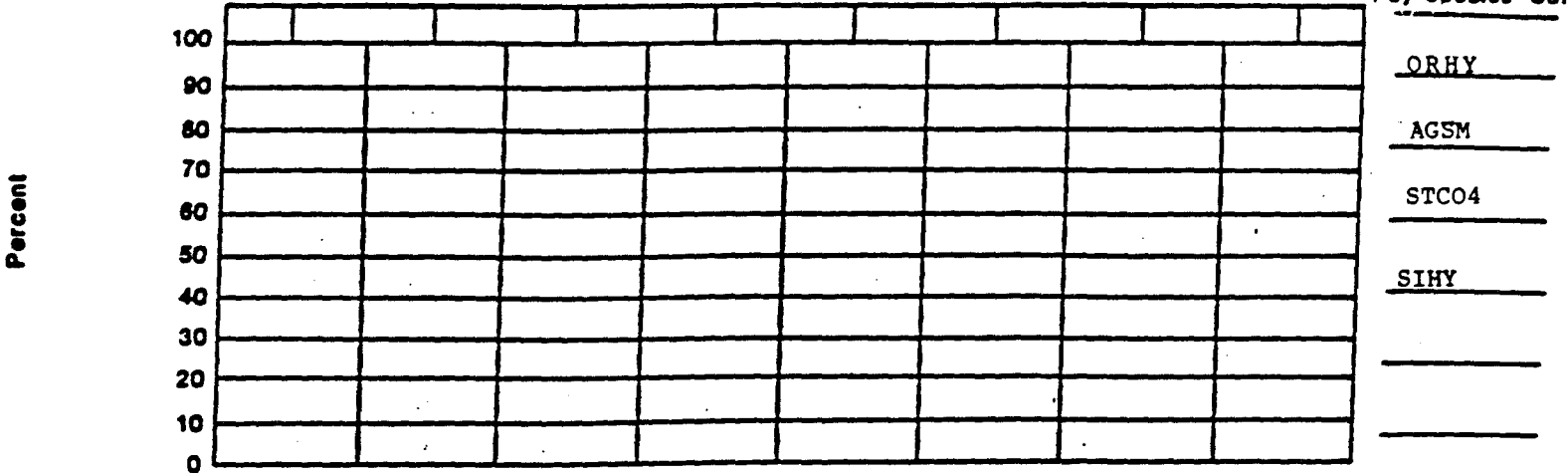
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ALLOTMENT EVALUATION SUMMARY

District Battle Mountain	
Planning Area Shoshone/Eureka	Date

Allotment Willow Ranch	Key Management Area Key Area # 4
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Trend Index (Frequency)
Date



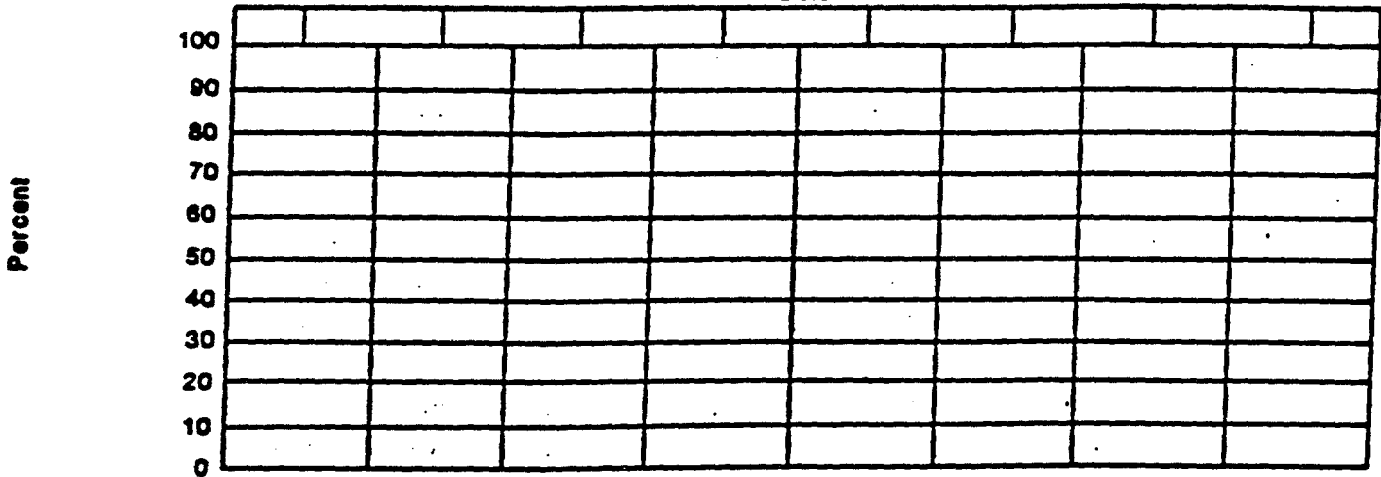
UNITED STATES
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District
Battle Mountain
Planning Area
Shoshone/Eureka
Date

ALLOTMENT EVALUATION SUMMARY

Allotment Willow Ranch Key Management Area Key Area # 5

Trend Index (Frequency)
Date

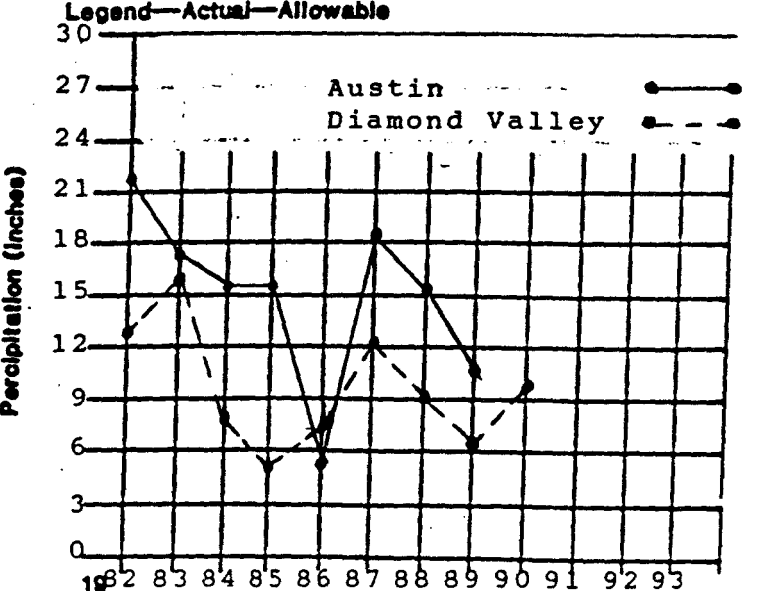
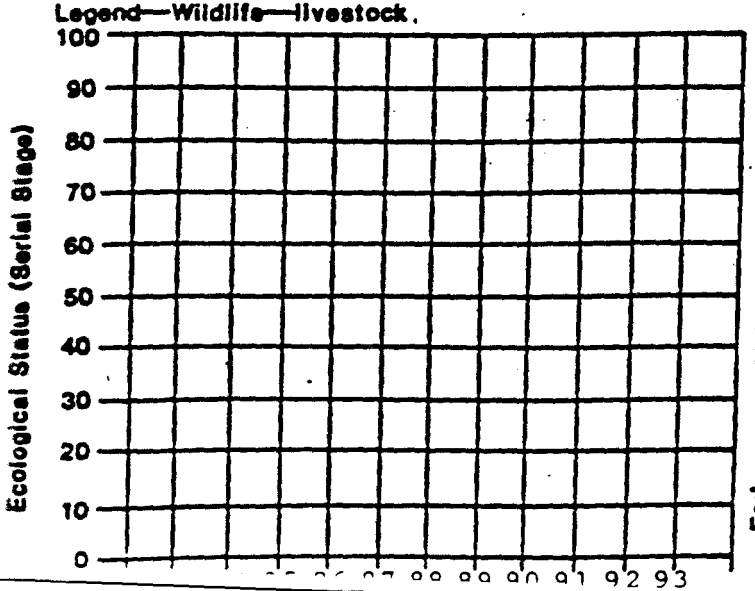
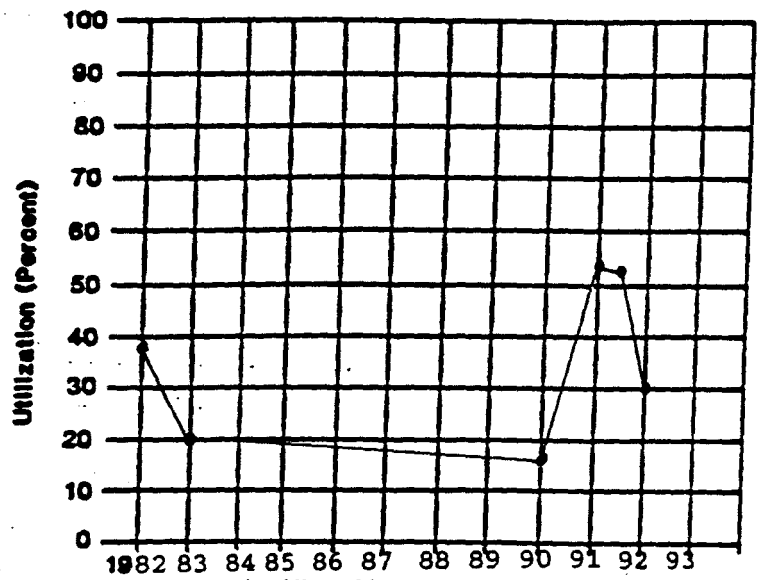
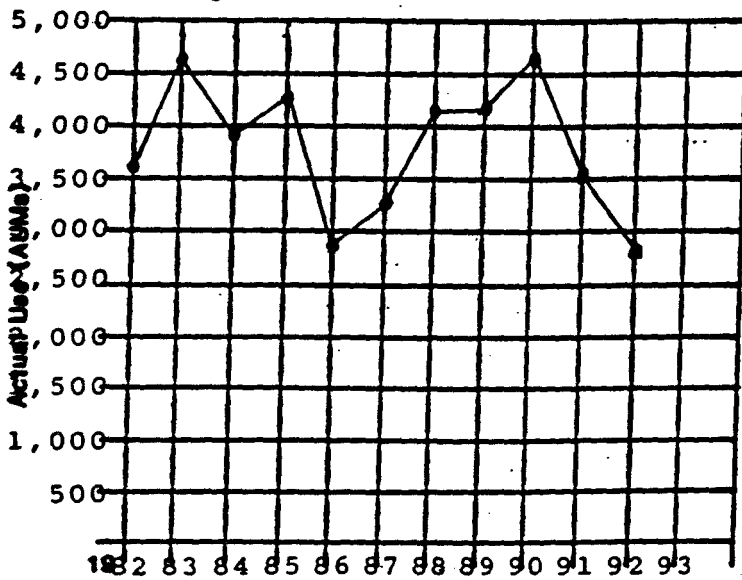


Code
Key Species-C

ORHY

SIHY

STCO4

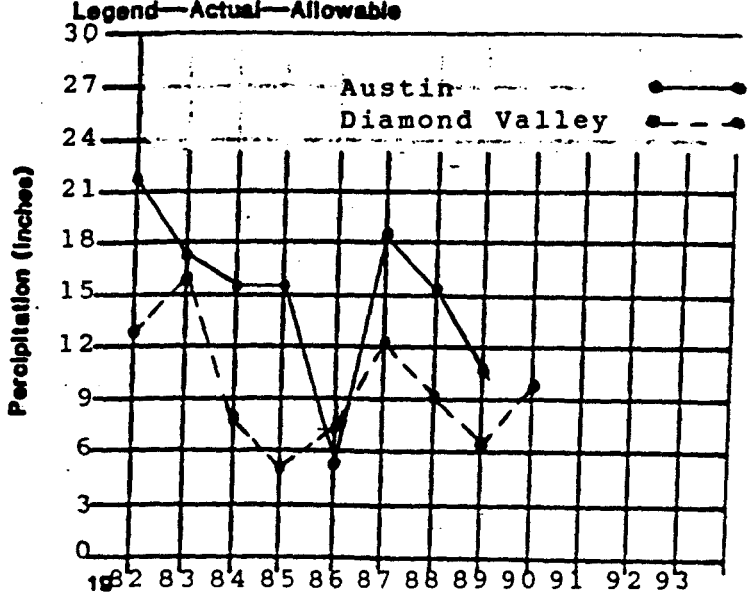
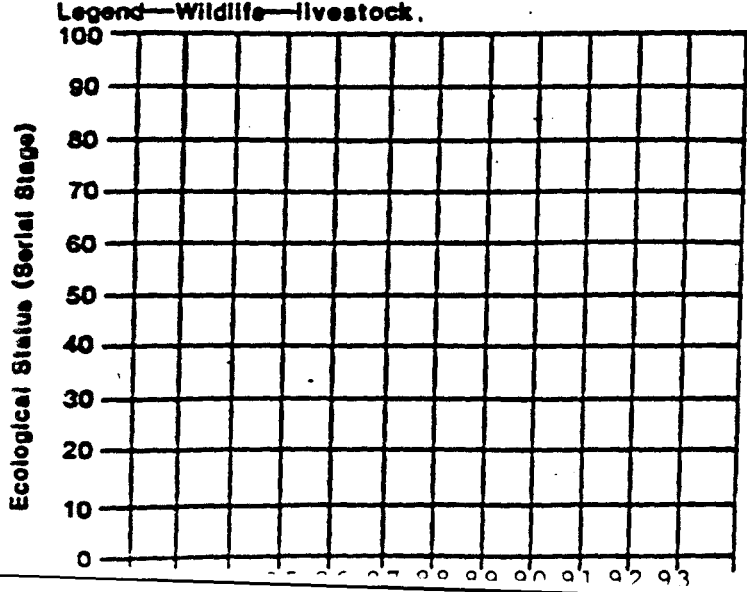
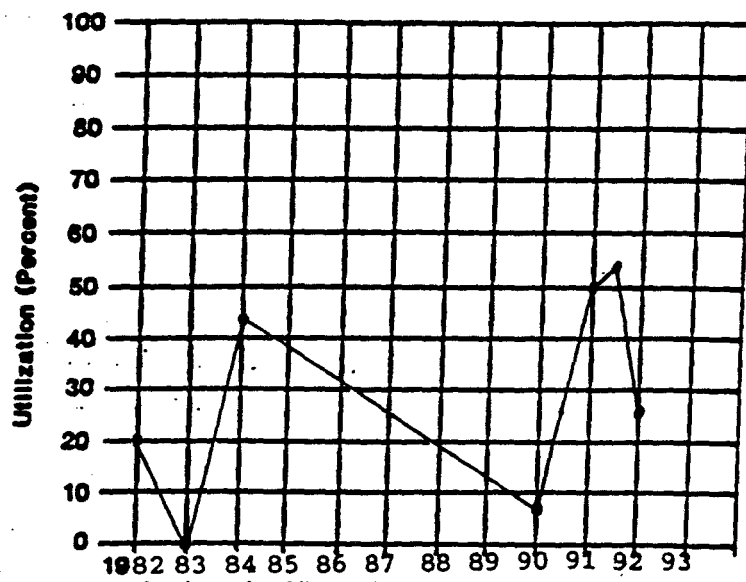
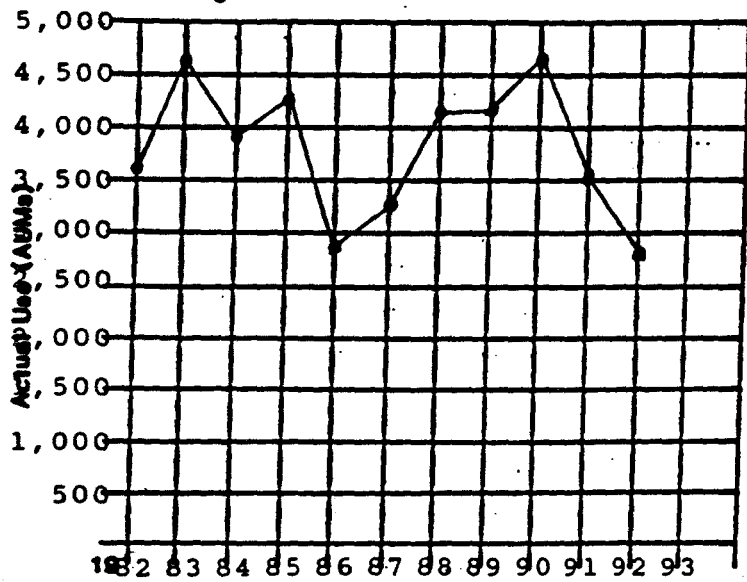
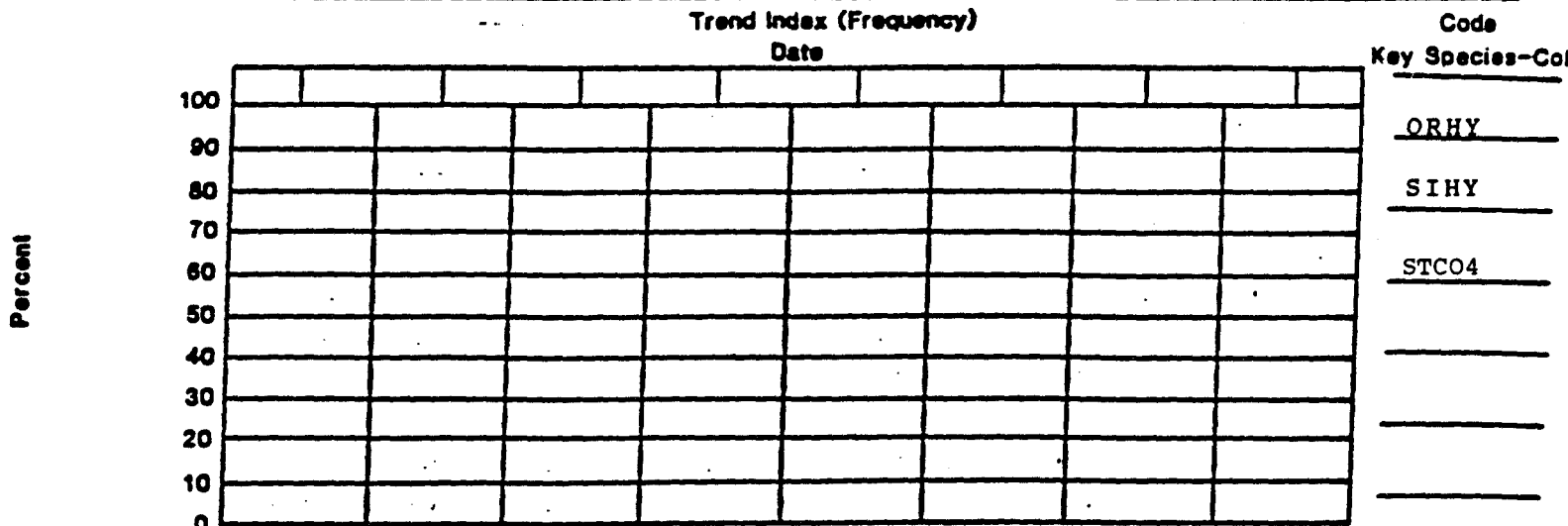


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ALLOTMENT EVALUATION SUMMARY

District	
Battle Mountain	
Planning Area	Date
Shoshone/Eureka	

Allotment	Key Management Area
Willow Ranch	Key Area # 6



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District

Battle Mountain

Planning Area

Shoshone/Eureka

Date

ALLOTMENT EVALUATION SUMMARY

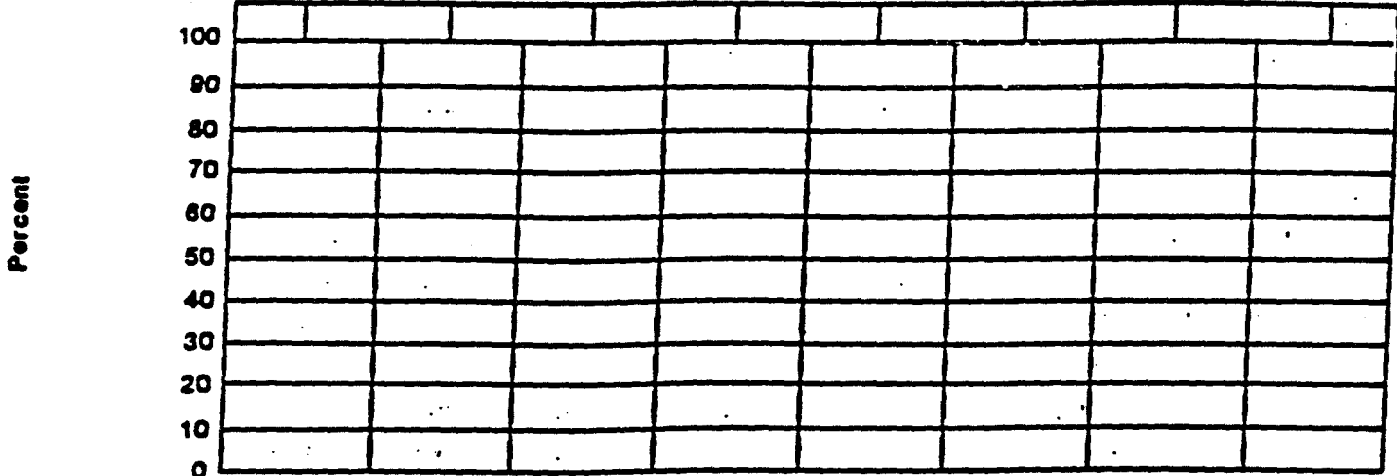
Allotment

Willow Ranch

Key Management Area

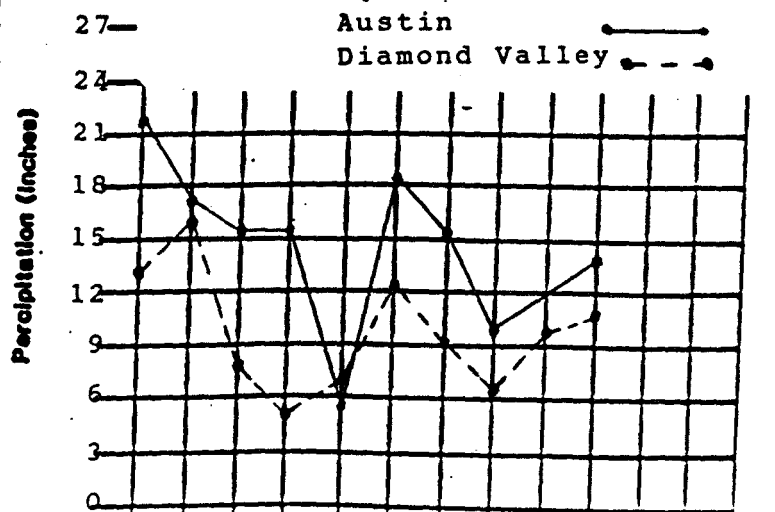
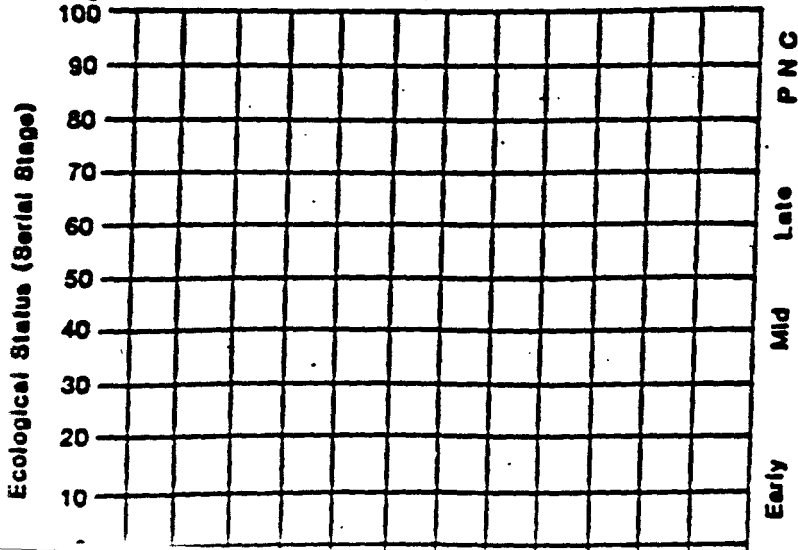
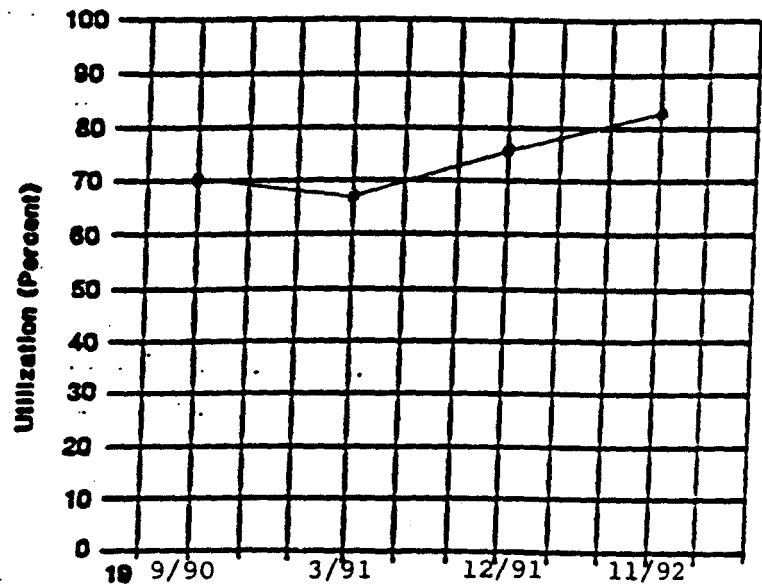
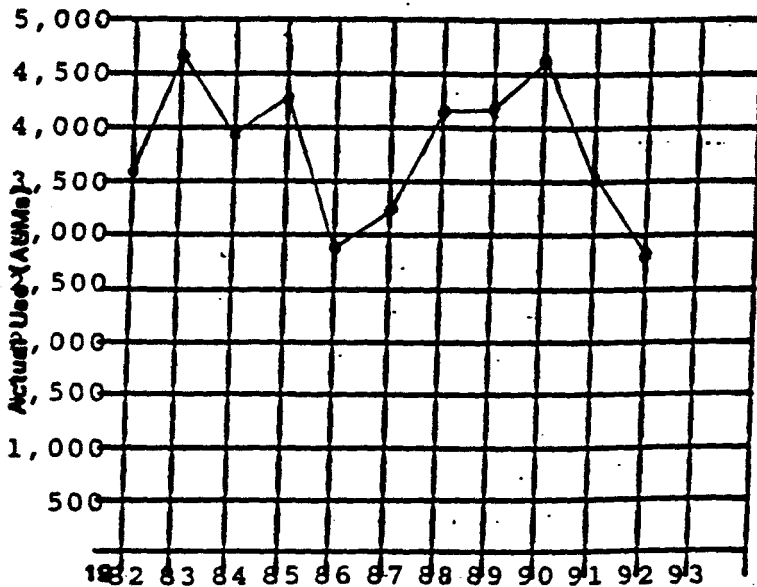
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Trend Index (Frequency)
Date



Code
Key Species-

AGCR

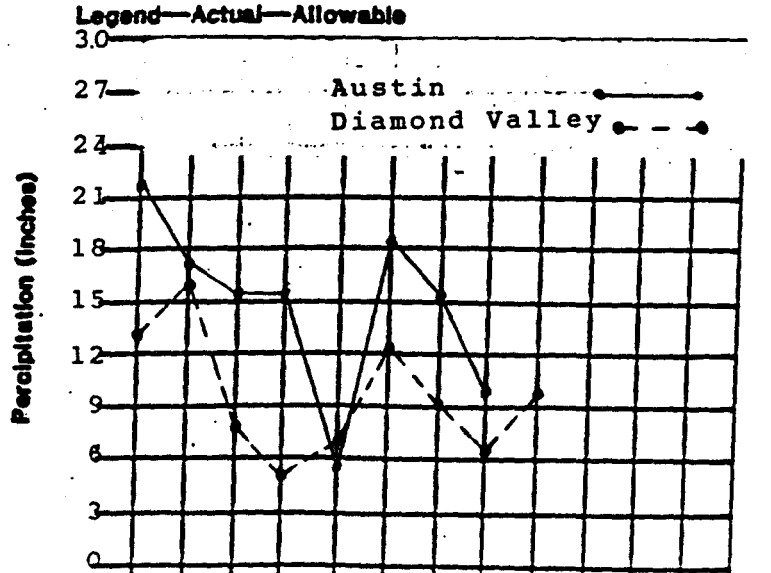
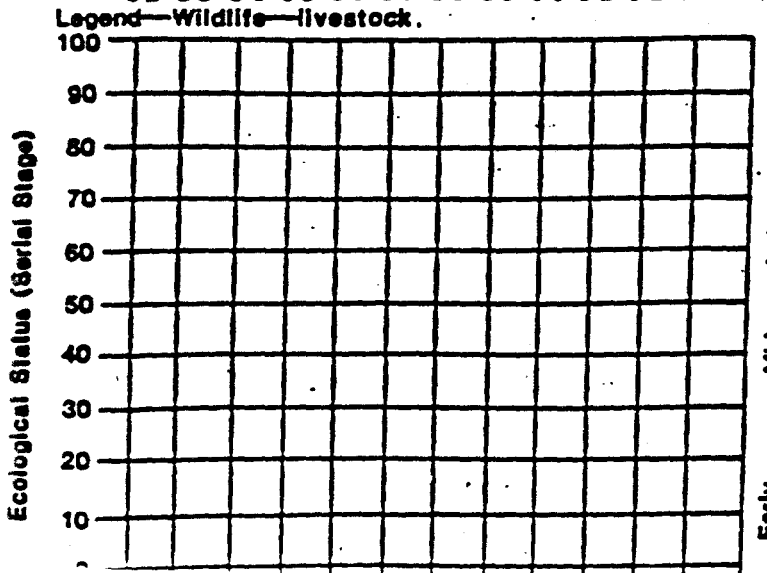
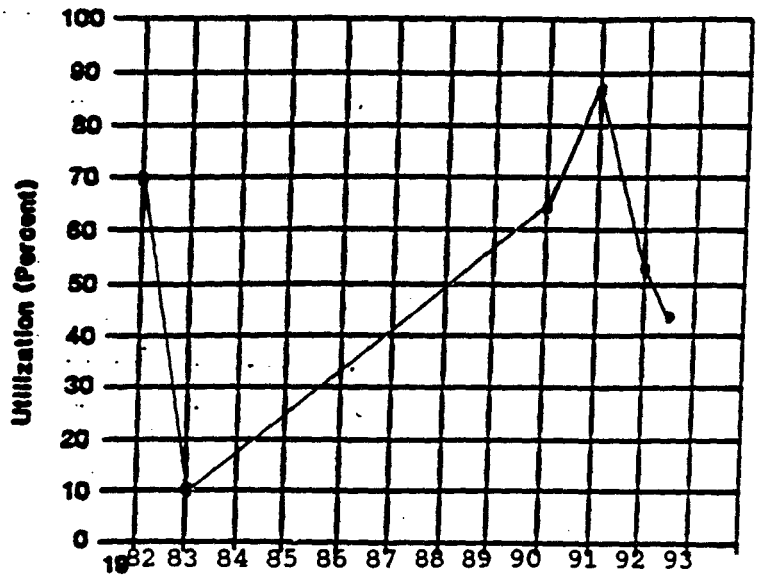
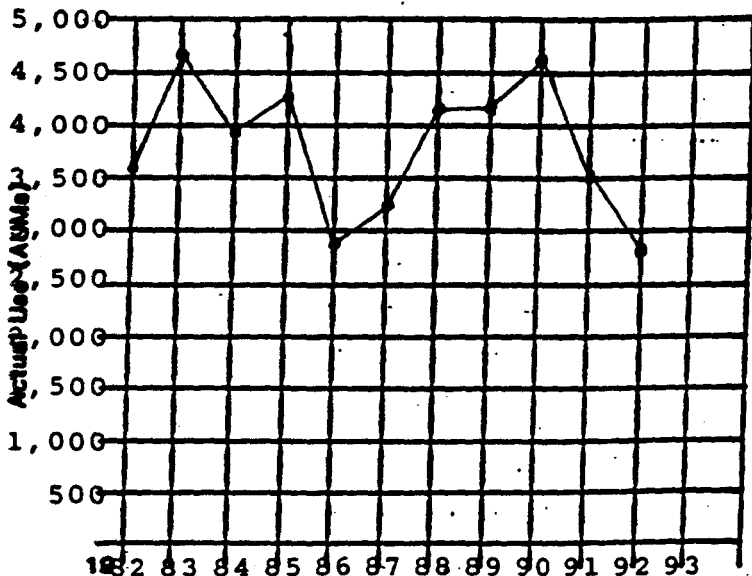
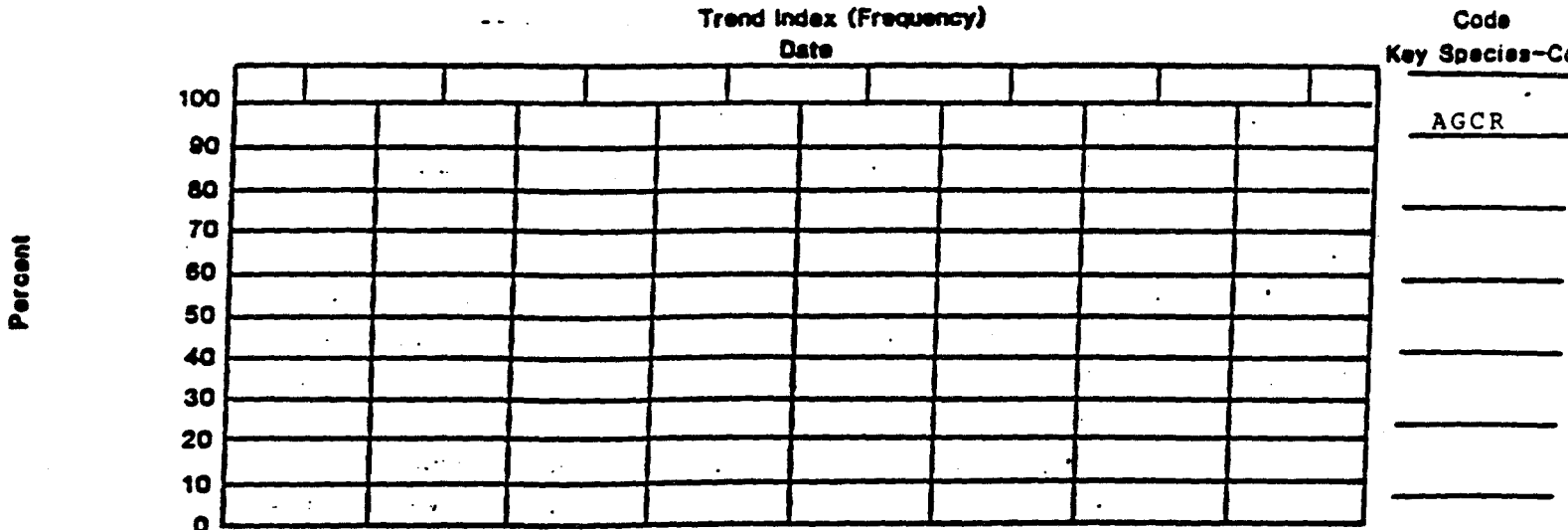


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ALLOTMENT EVALUATION SUMMARY

District	
Battle Mountain	
Planning Area	Date
Shoshone/Eureka	

Allotment	Willow Ranch	Key Management Area	Key Area # 8
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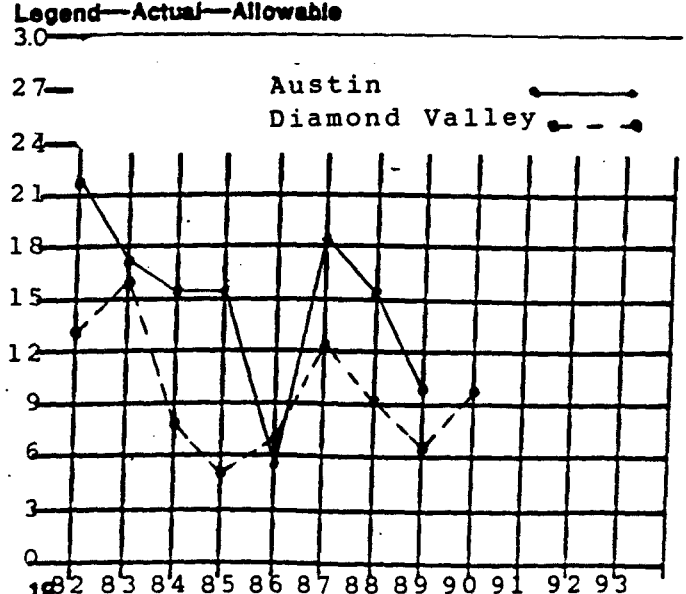
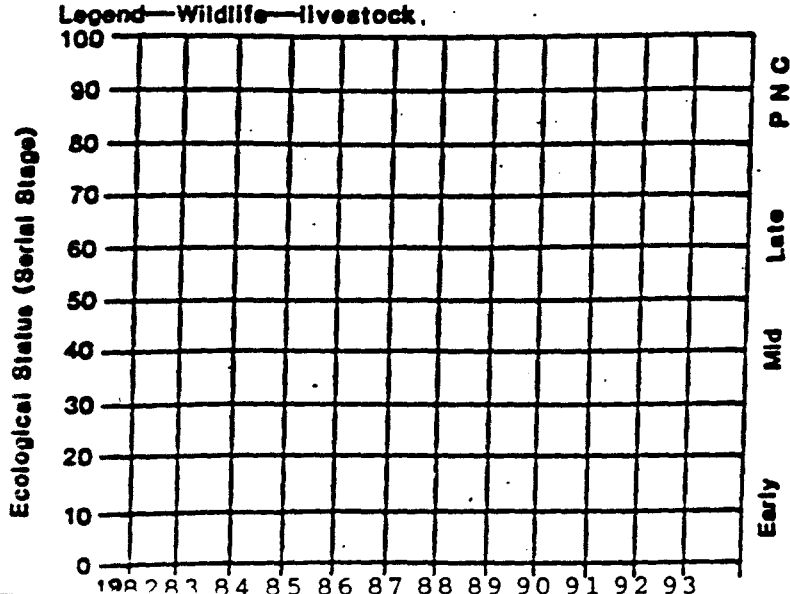
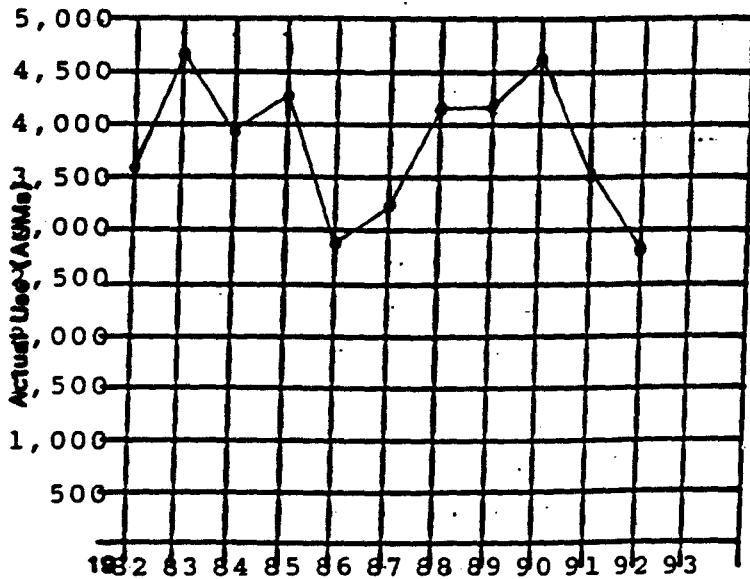
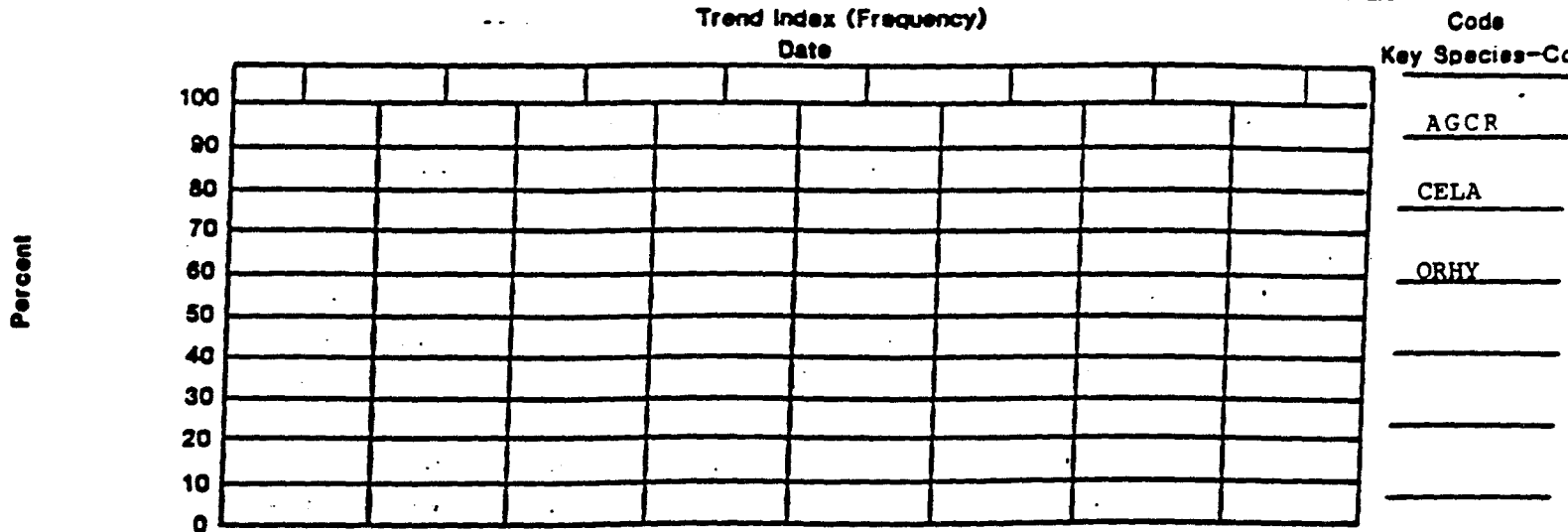


UNITED STATES
DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
BUREAU OF LAND MANAGEMENT

ALLOTMENT EVALUATION SUMMARY

District Battle Mountain	
Planning Area Shoshone/Eureka	Date

Allotment Willow Ranch	Key Management Area Key Area # 9
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DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
BUREAU OF LAND MANAGEMENT

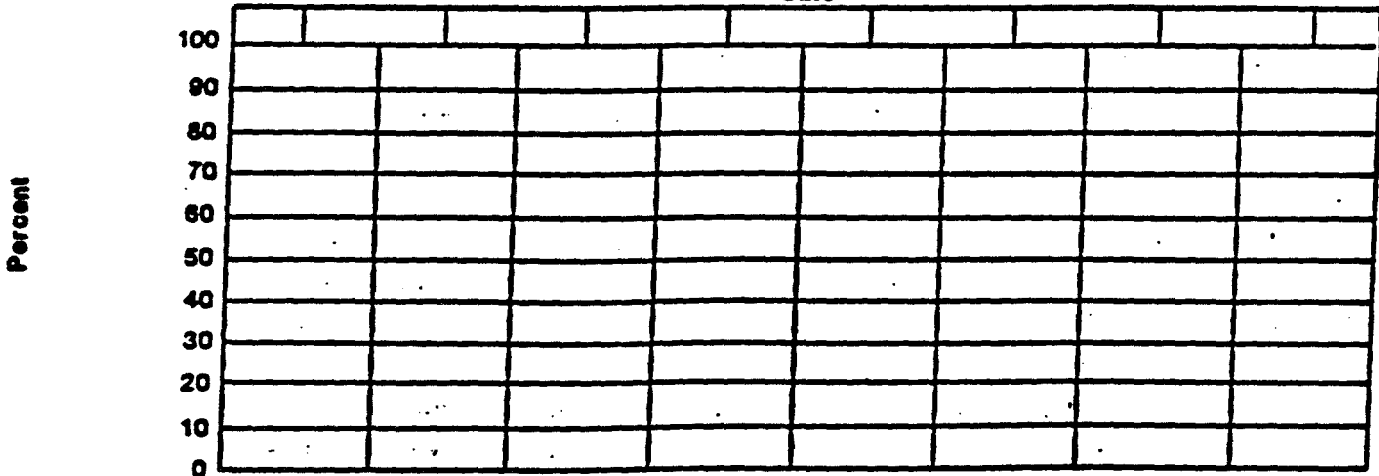
ALLOTMENT EVALUATION SUMMARY

District	
Battle Mountain	
Planning Area	Date
Shoshone/Eureka	

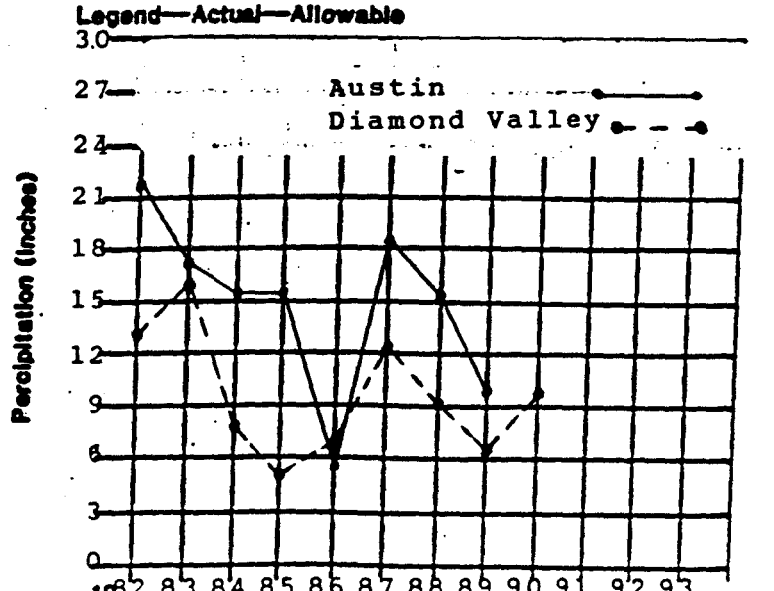
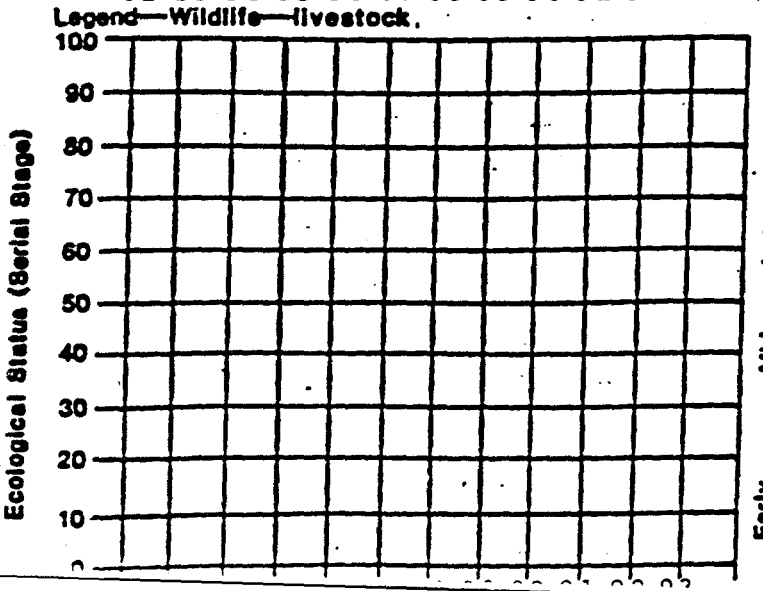
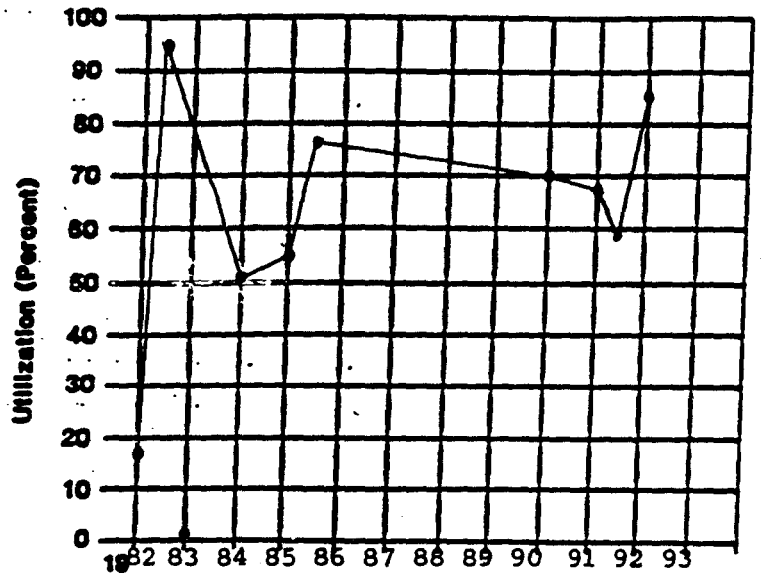
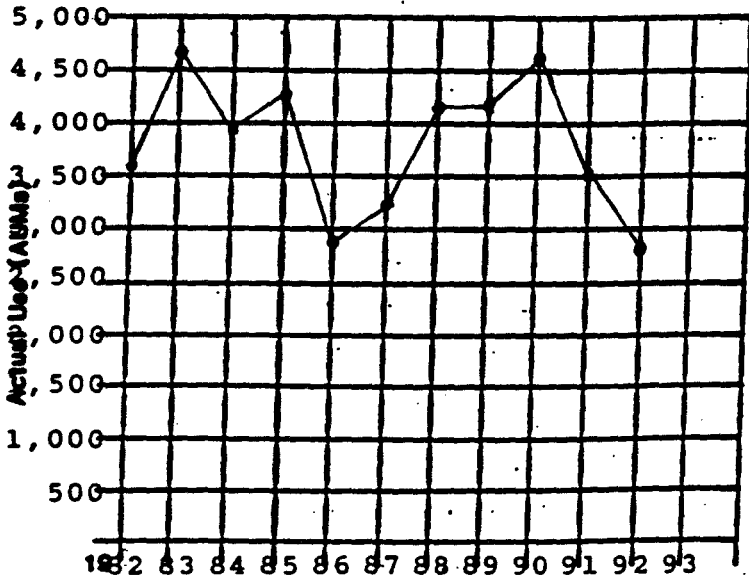
Allotment	Willow Ranch	Key Management Area	Key Area #10
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Trend Index (Frequency)
Date

Code
Key Species-Co



AGCR

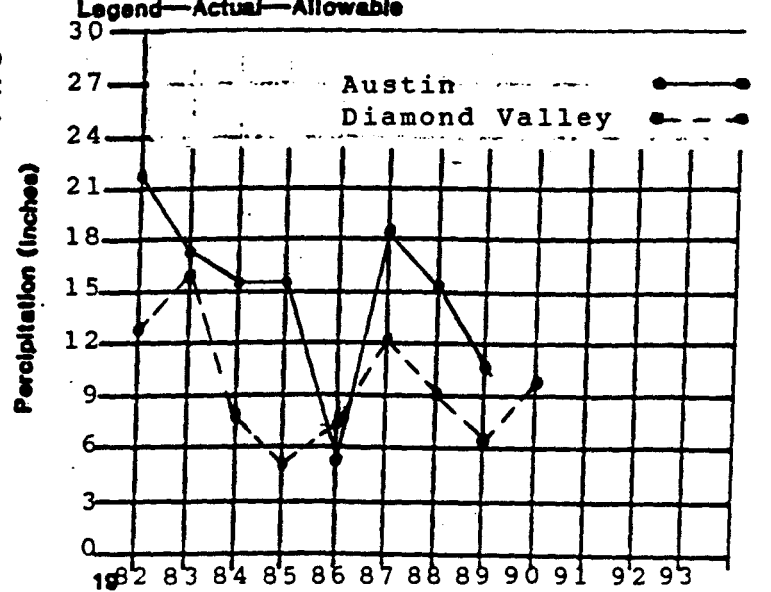
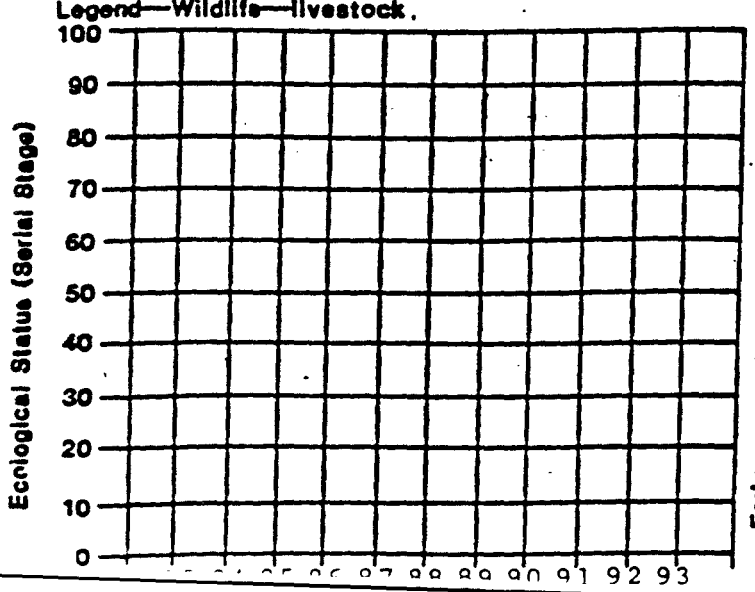
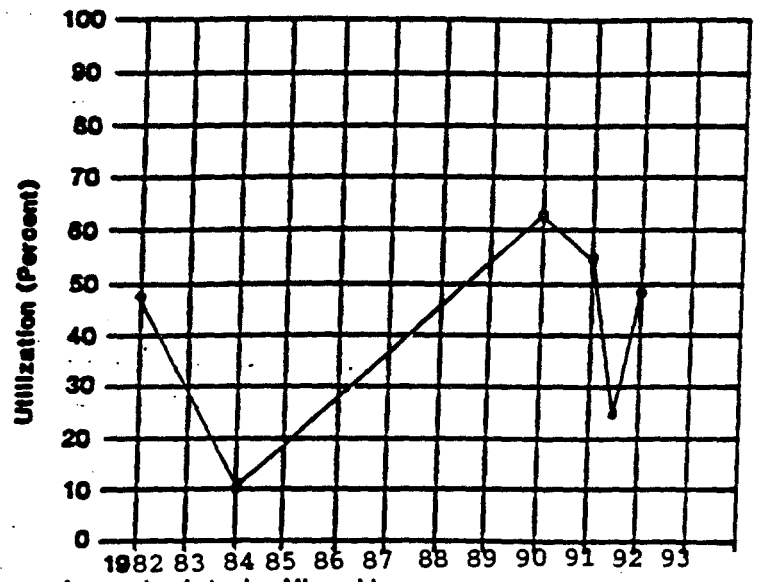
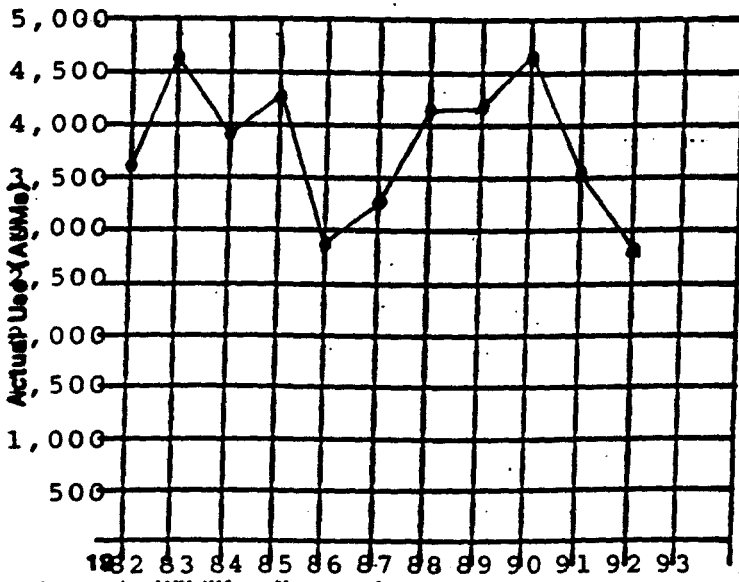
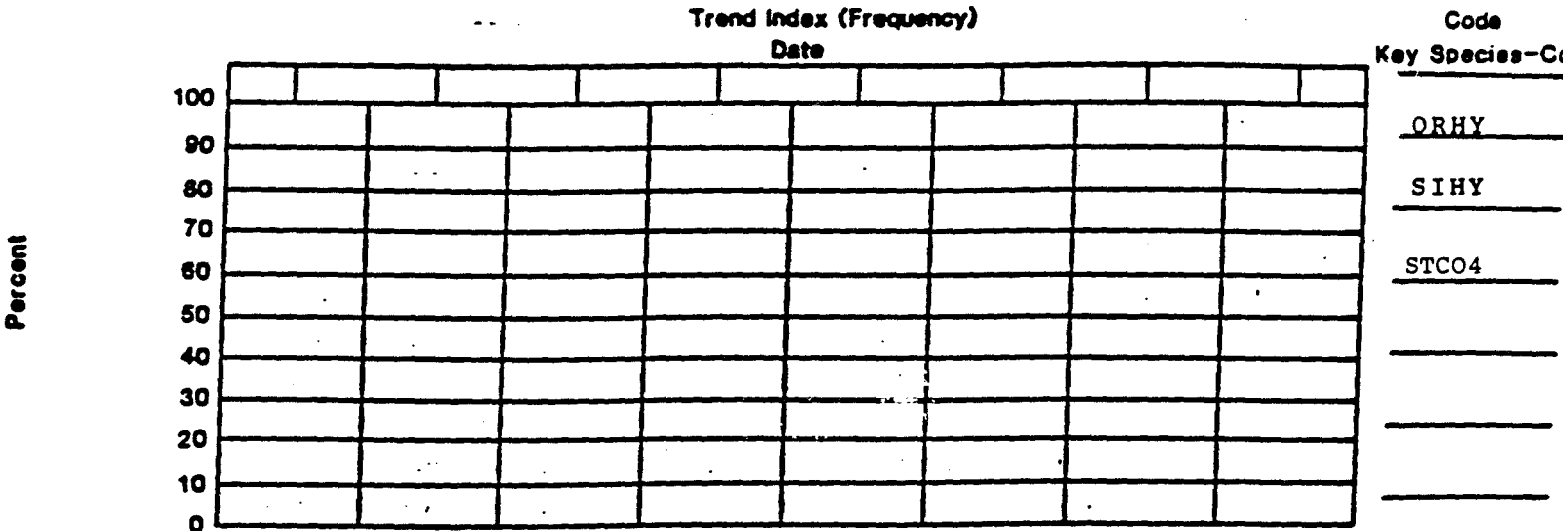


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DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
BUREAU OF LAND MANAGEMENT

ALLOTMENT EVALUATION SUMMARY

District Battle Mountain	
Planning Area Shoshone/Eureka	Date

Allotment Willow Ranch	Key Management Area Key Area # 11
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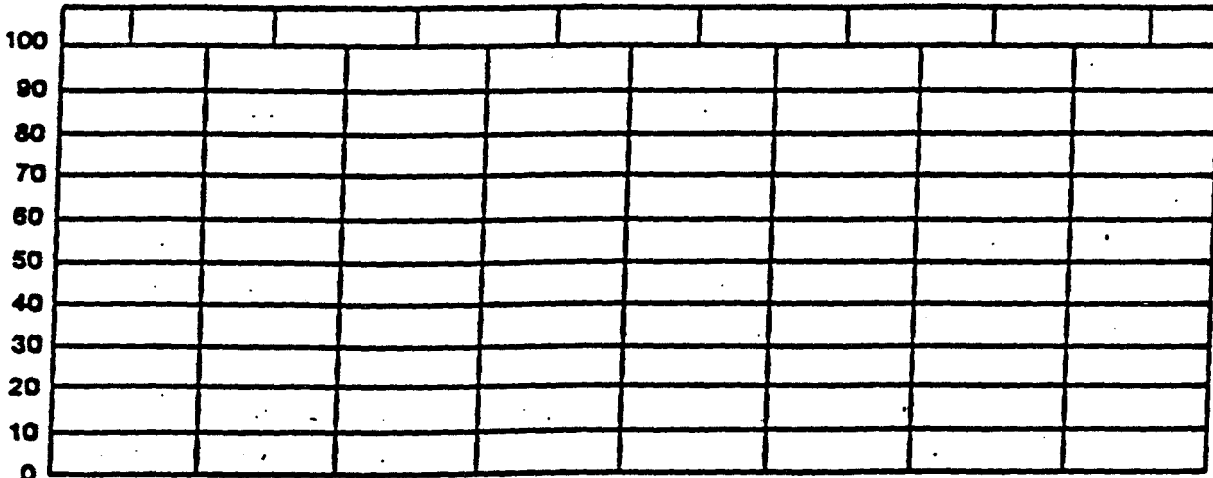
UNITED STATES
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ALLOTMENT EVALUATION SUMMARY

District Battle Mountain	
Planning Area Shoshone/Eureka	Date

Allotment Willow Ranch	Key Management Area Key Area # 12
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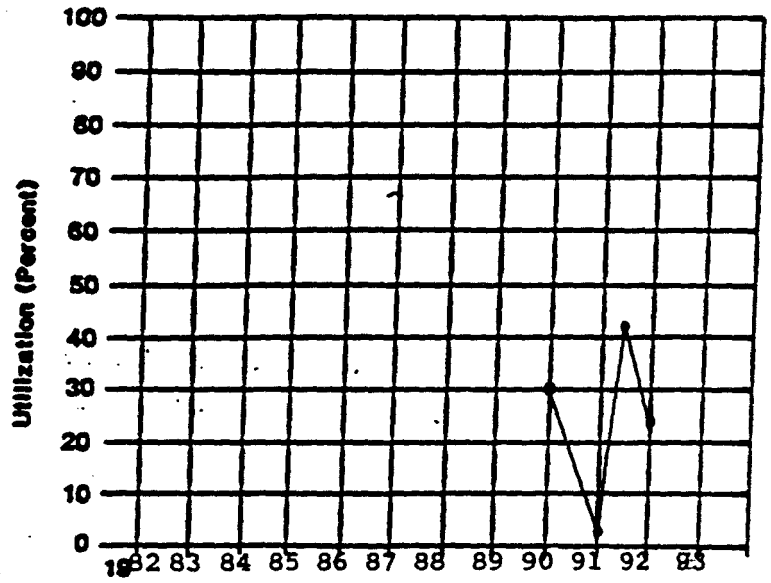
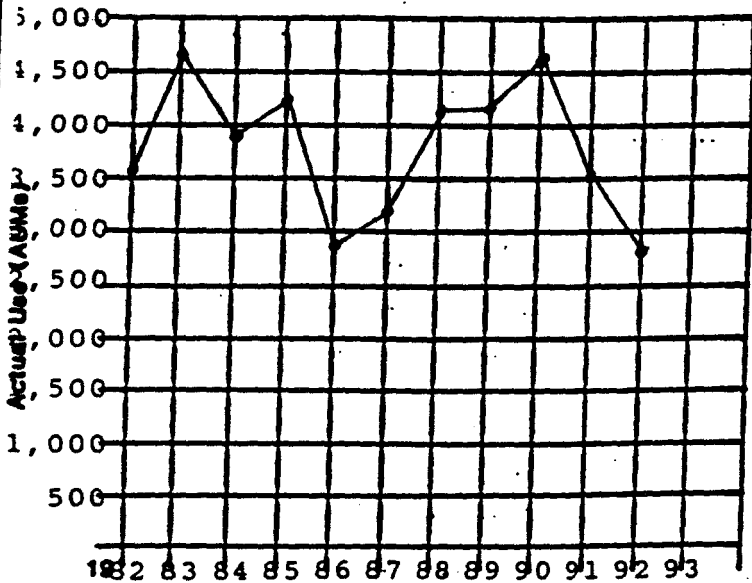
Trend Index (Frequency)
Date



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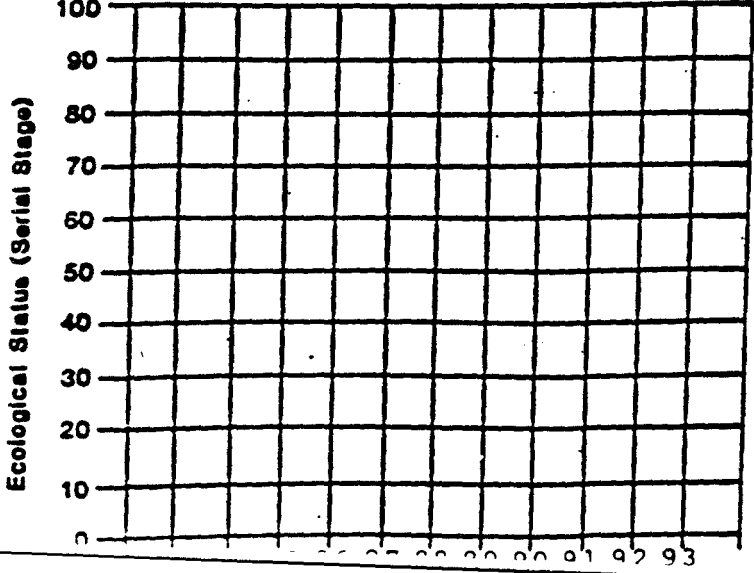
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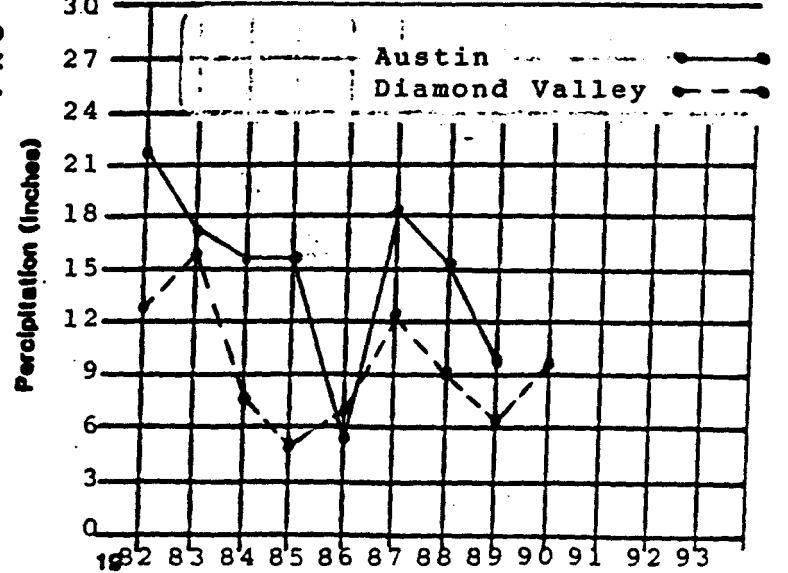


Legend—Wildlife—livestock.

Legend—Actual—Allowable



Early Mid Late P N C

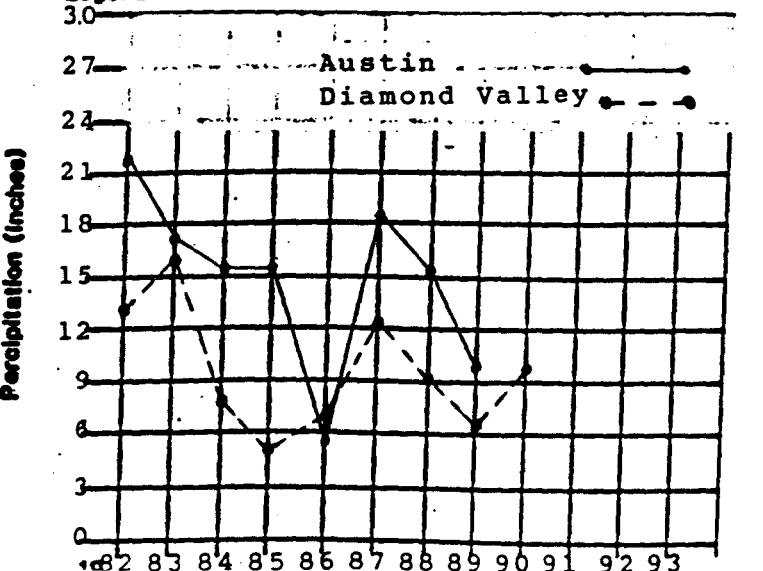
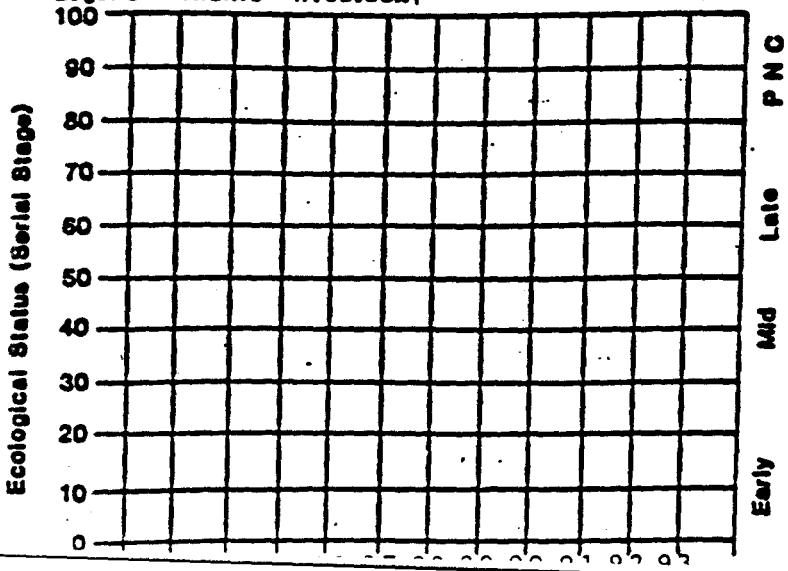
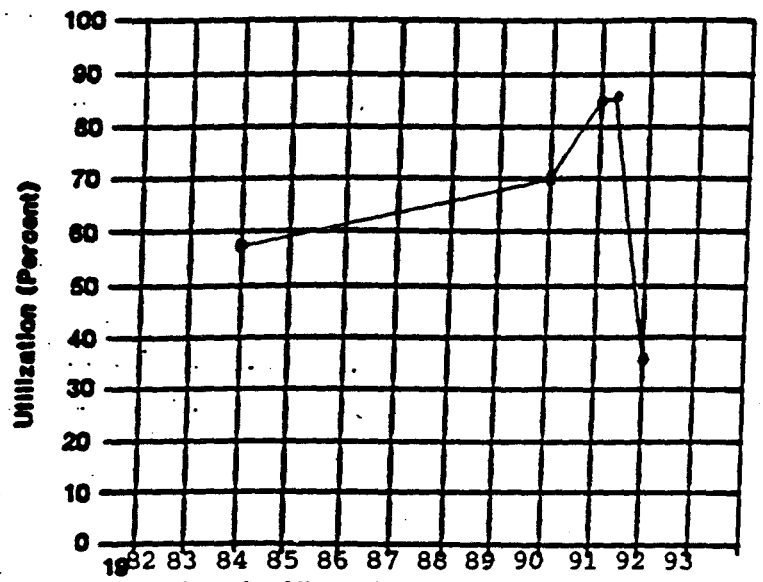
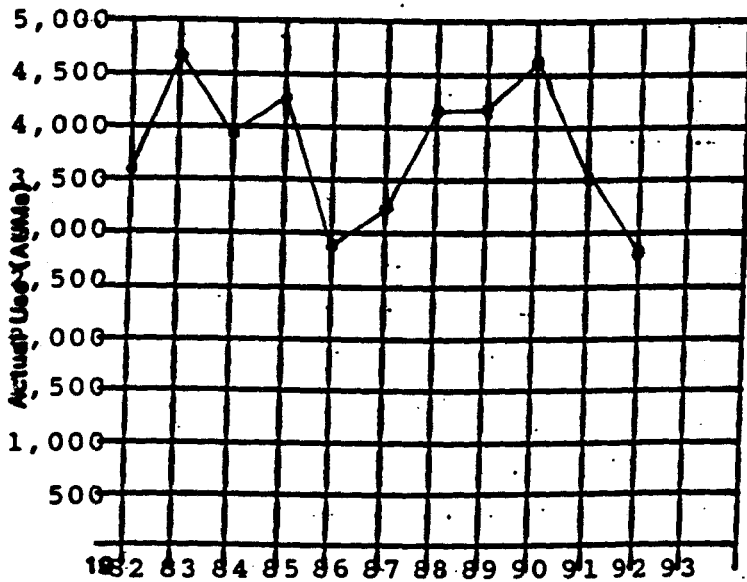
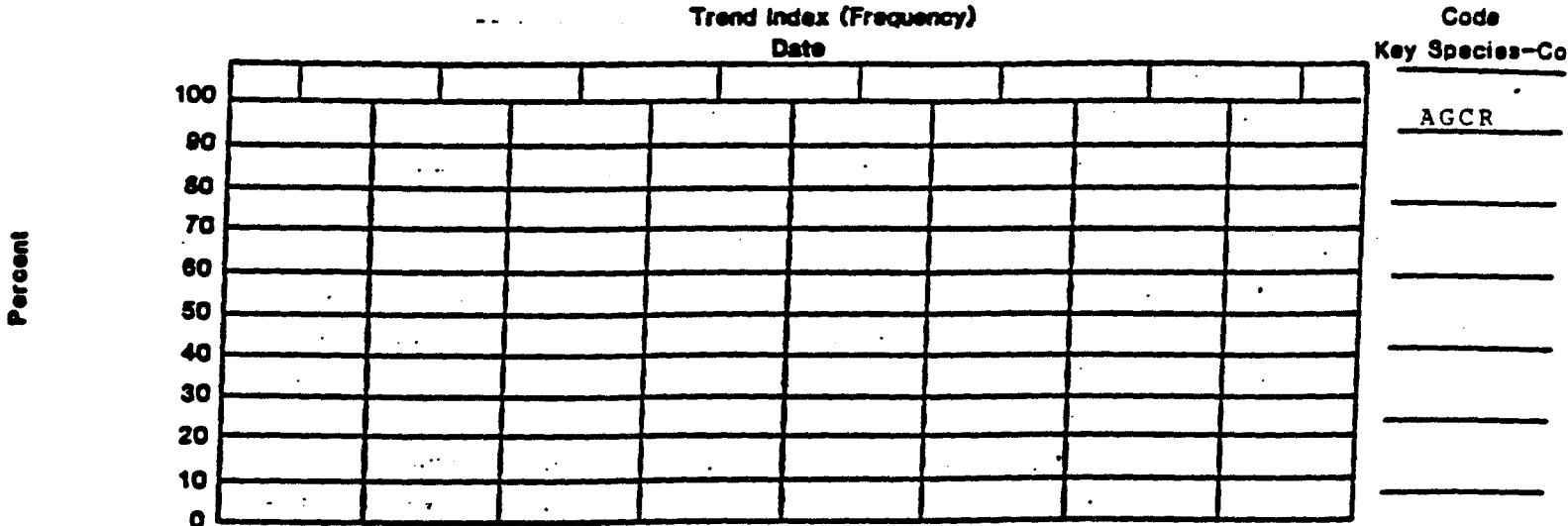


UNITED STATES
DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
BUREAU OF LAND MANAGEMENT

ALLOTMENT EVALUATION SUMMARY

District Battle Mountain	
Planning Area Shoshone/Eureka	Date

Allotment Willow Ranch	Key Management Area Key Area # 13
---------------------------	--------------------------------------



UNITED STATES
DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
BUREAU OF LAND MANAGEMENT

ALLOTMENT EVALUATION SUMMARY

District

Battle Mountain

Planning Area

Shoshone/Eureka

Date

Allotment

Willow Ranch

Key Management Area

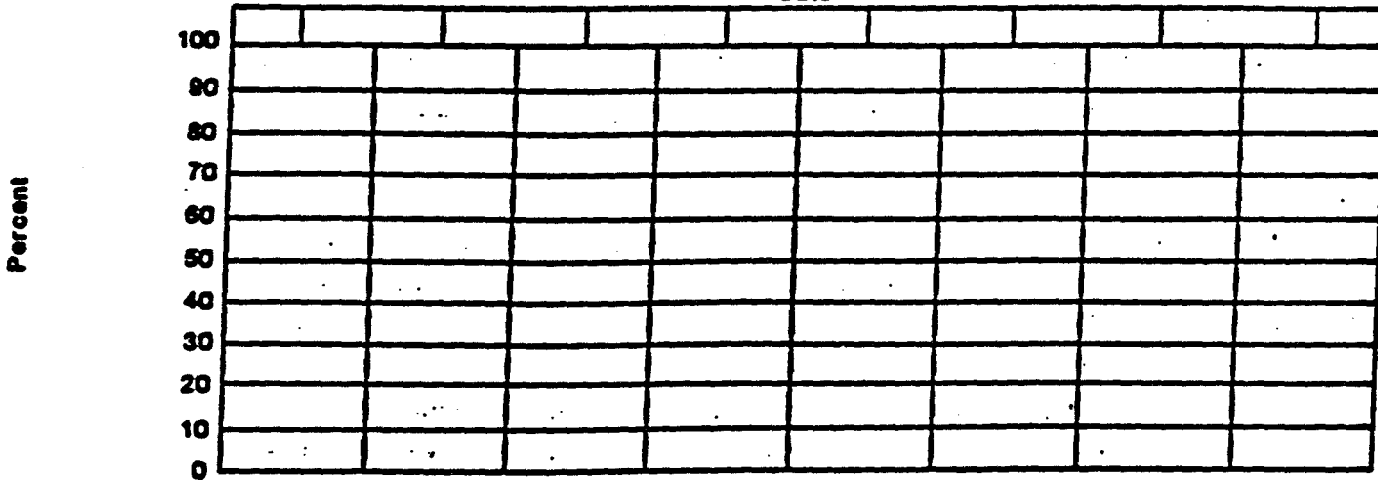
Key Area # 14

Trend Index (Frequency)

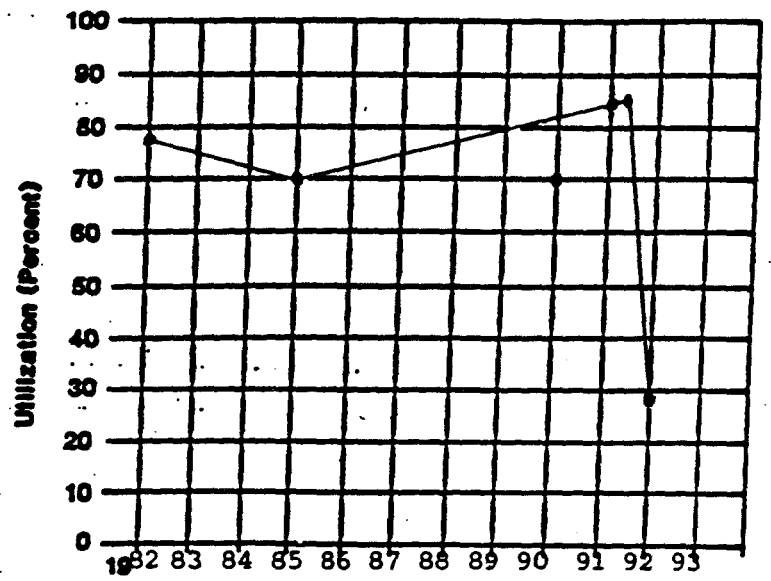
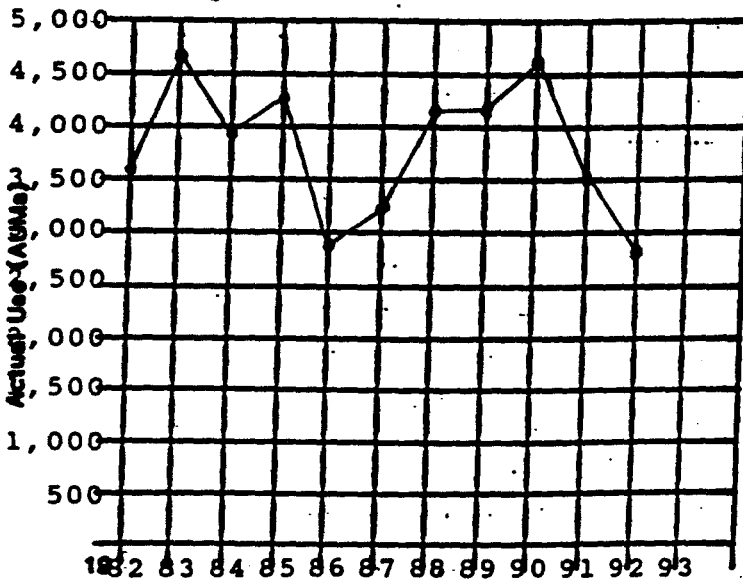
Date

Code

Key Species-Co

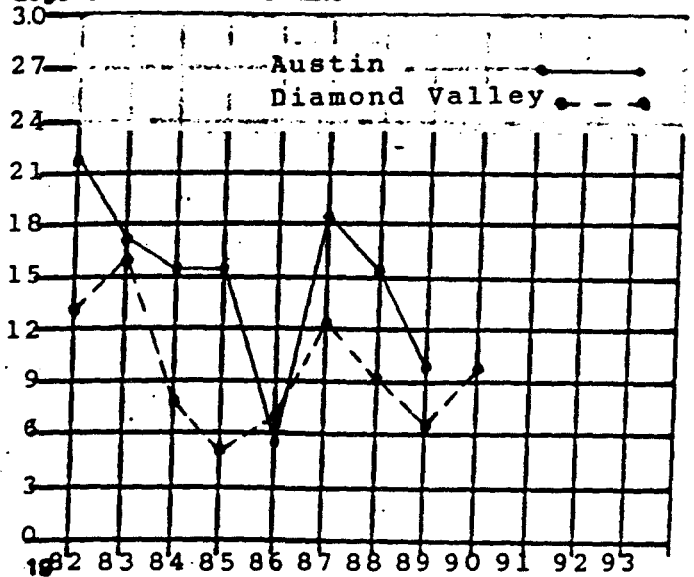
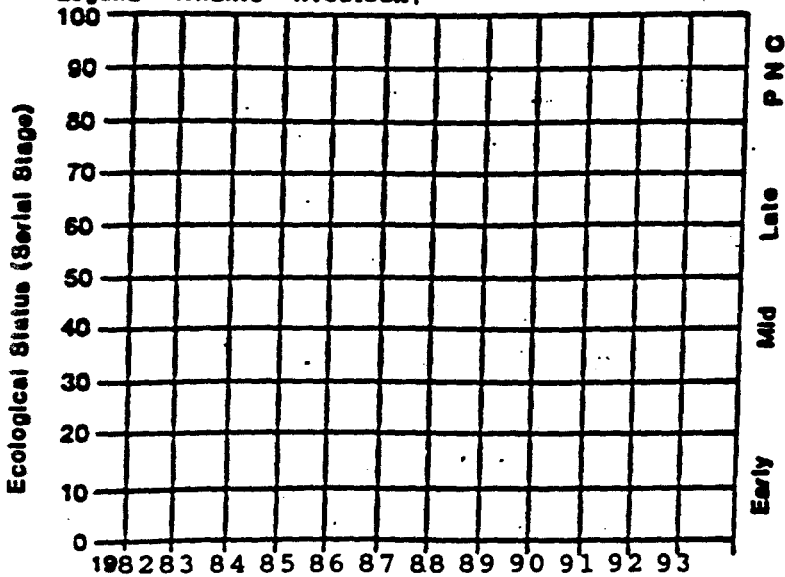


AGCR



Legend—Wildlife—livestock.

Legend—Actual—Allowable



Legend—Actual—Normal

UNITED STATES
DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
BUREAU OF LAND MANAGEMENT

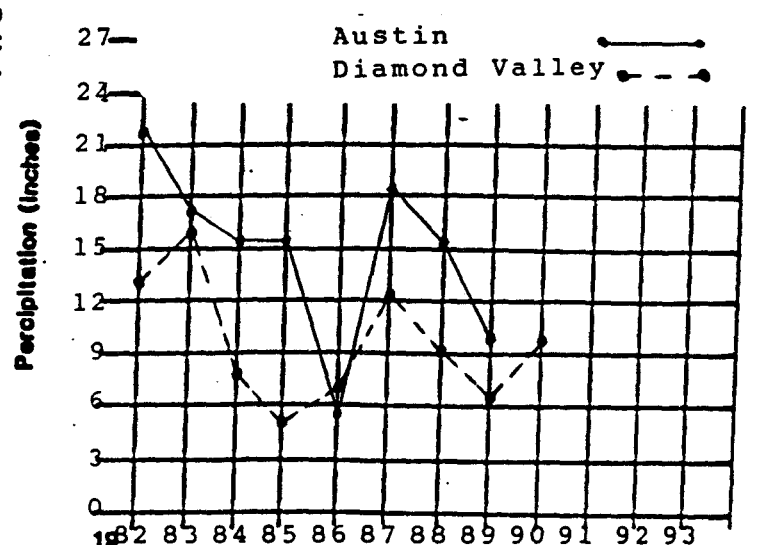
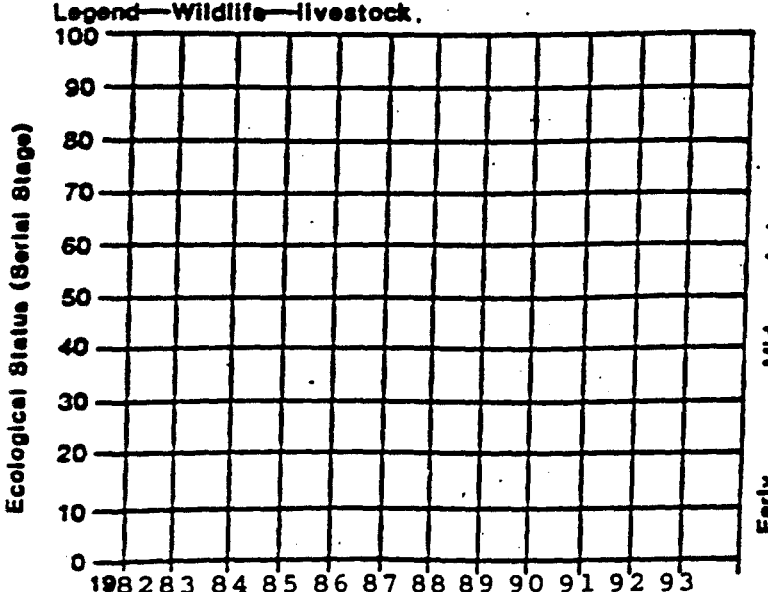
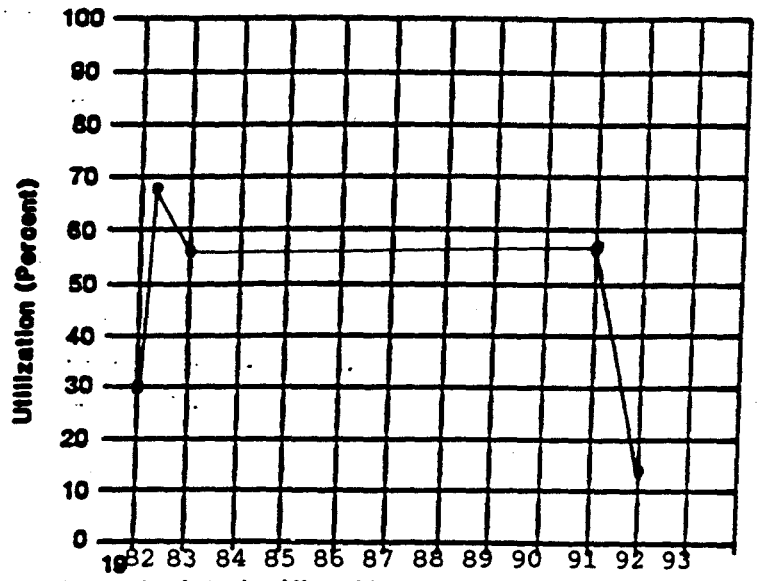
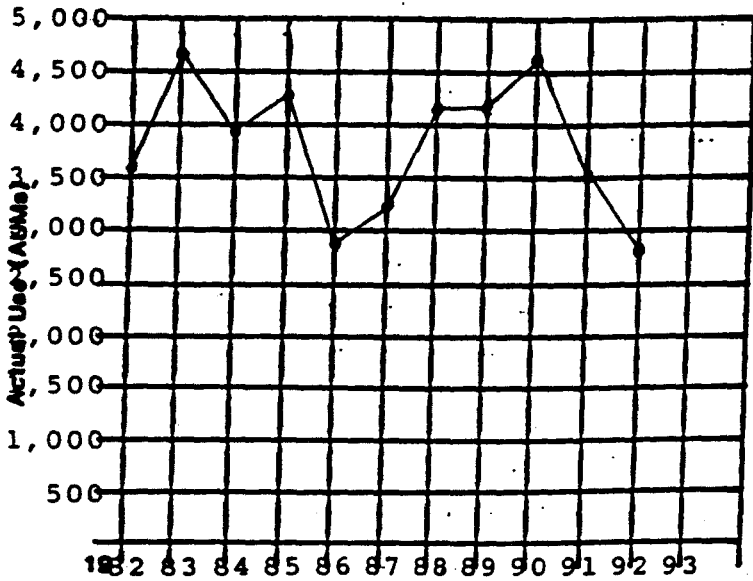
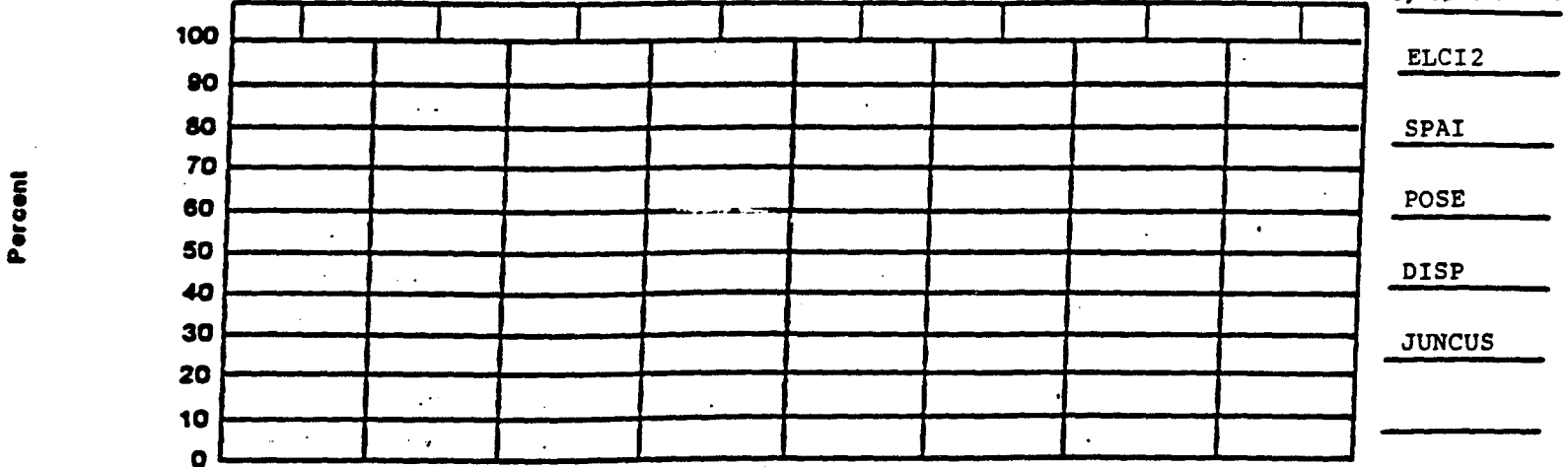
APPENDIX A-15

ALLOTMENT EVALUATION SUMMARY

District Battle Mountain	
Planning Area Shoshone/Eureka	Date

Allotment Willow Ranch	Key Management Area Key Area # 15
---------------------------	--------------------------------------

Trend Index (Frequency)
Date



Legend—Actual—Objective

Legend—Actual—Normal

UNITED STATES
DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
BUREAU OF LAND MANAGEMENT

District

Battle Mountain

Planning Area

Shoshone/Eureka

Date

ALLOTMENT EVALUATION SUMMARY

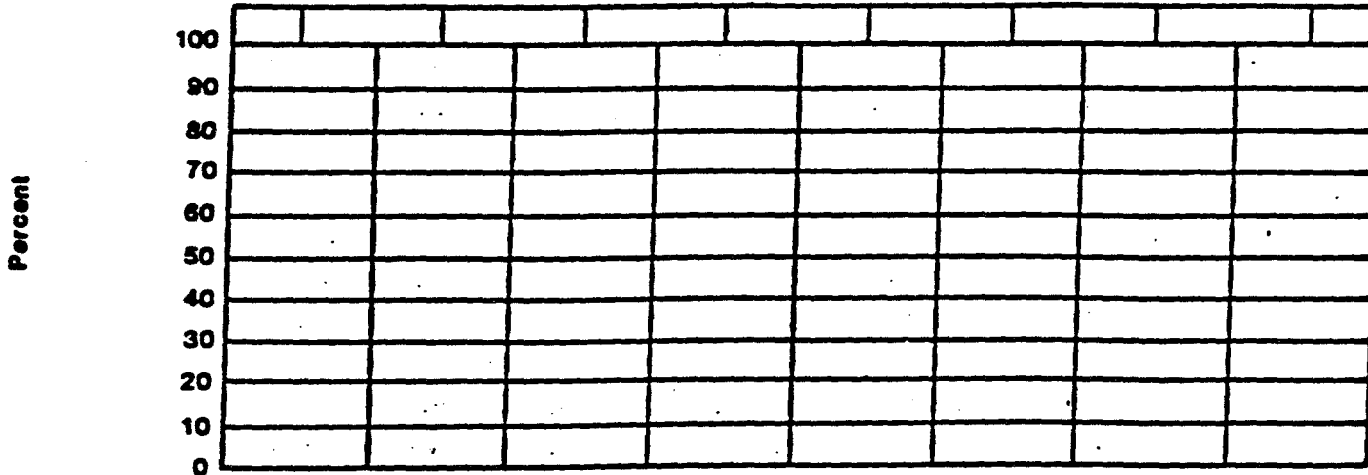
Allotment

Willow Ranch

Key Management Area

Key Area # 16

Trend Index (Frequency)
Date

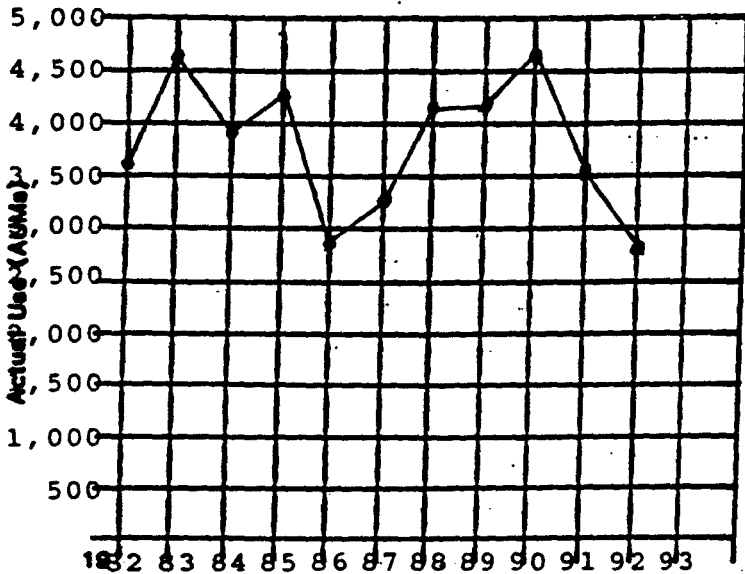


Code
Key Species—Color

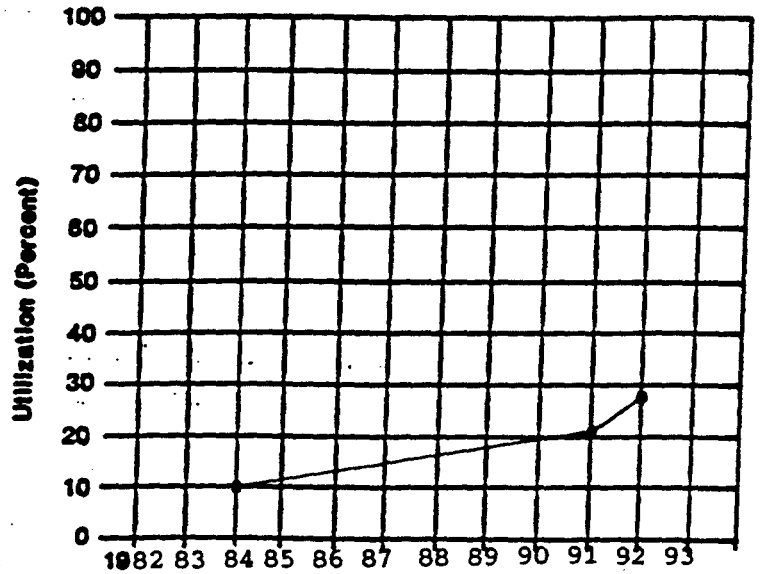
ORHY

SIHY

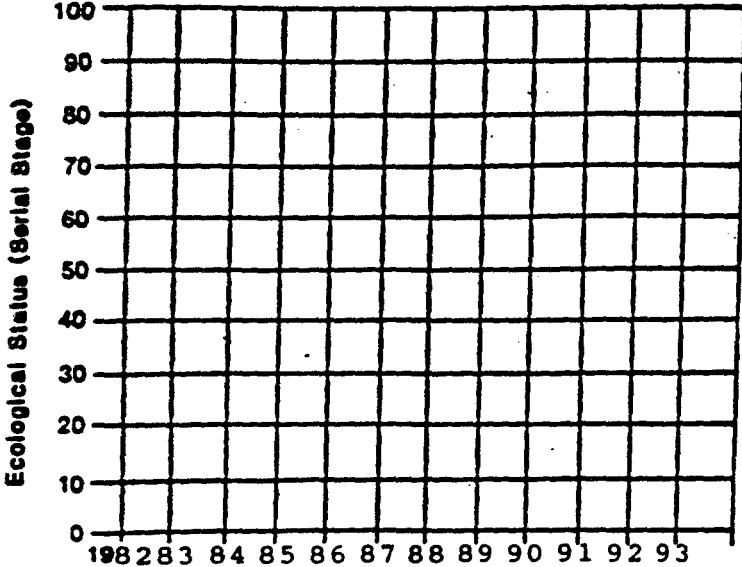
STCO4



Legend—Wildlife—livestock.

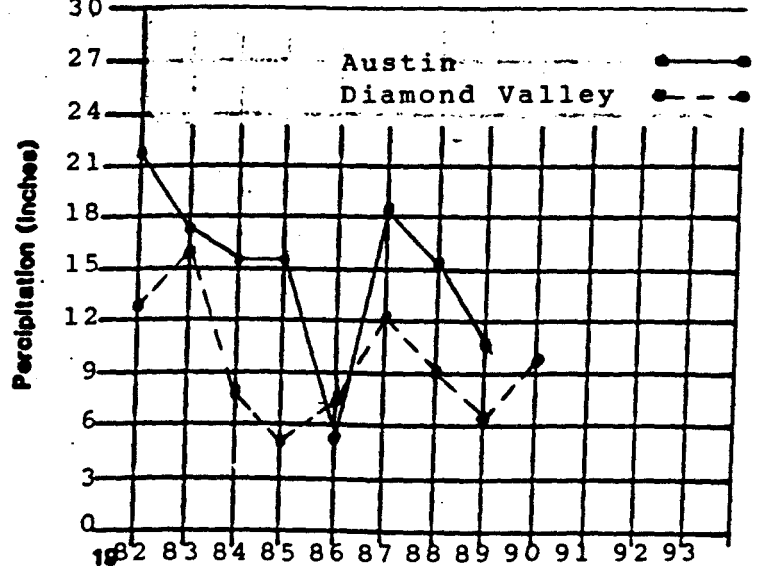


Legend—Actual—Allowable



Legend—Actual—Objective

Early Mid Late PNC



Legend—Actual—Normal

UNITED STATES
DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
BUREAU OF LAND MANAGEMENT

District

Battle Mountain

Planning Area

Shoshone/Eureka

Date

ALLOTMENT EVALUATION SUMMARY

Allotment

Willow Ranch

Key Management Area

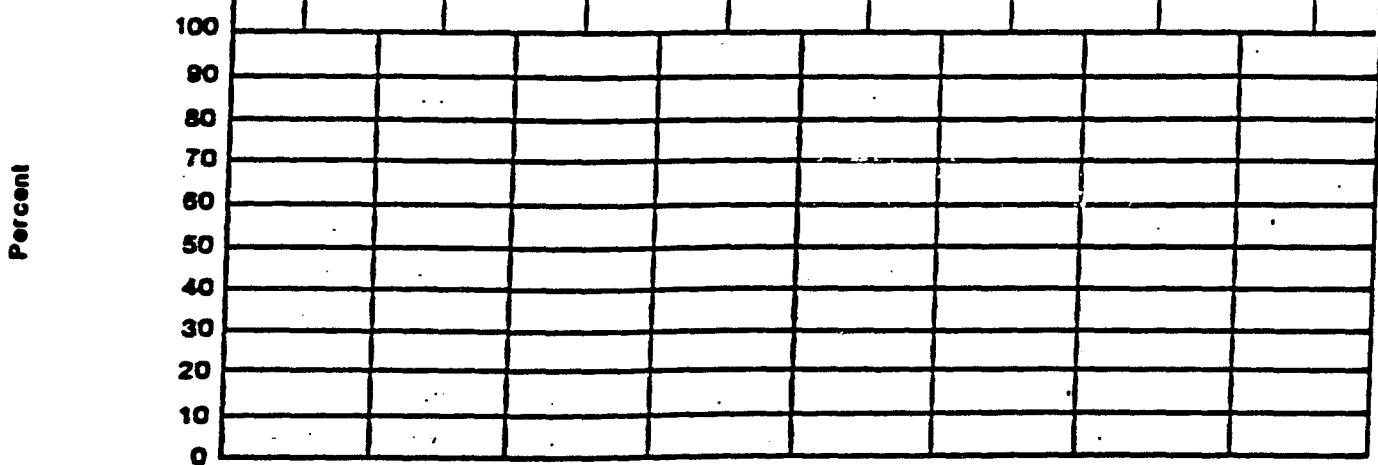
Key Area #17

Trend Index (Frequency)

Date

Code

Key Species-Co



ELCI2

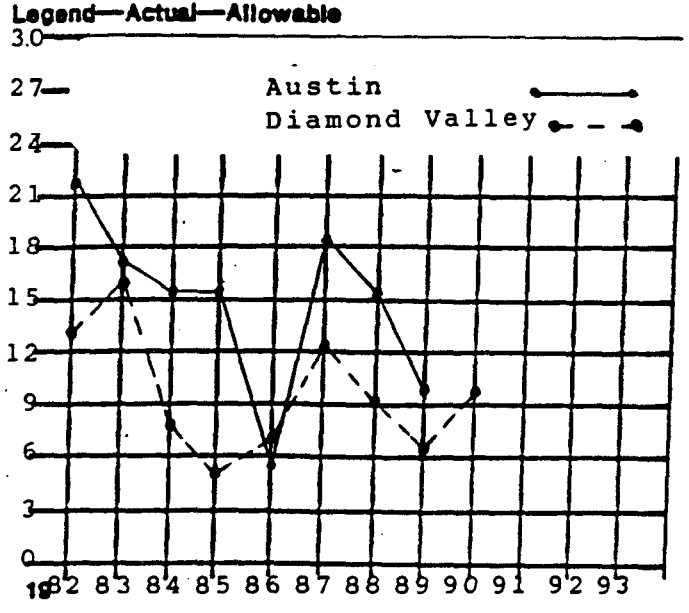
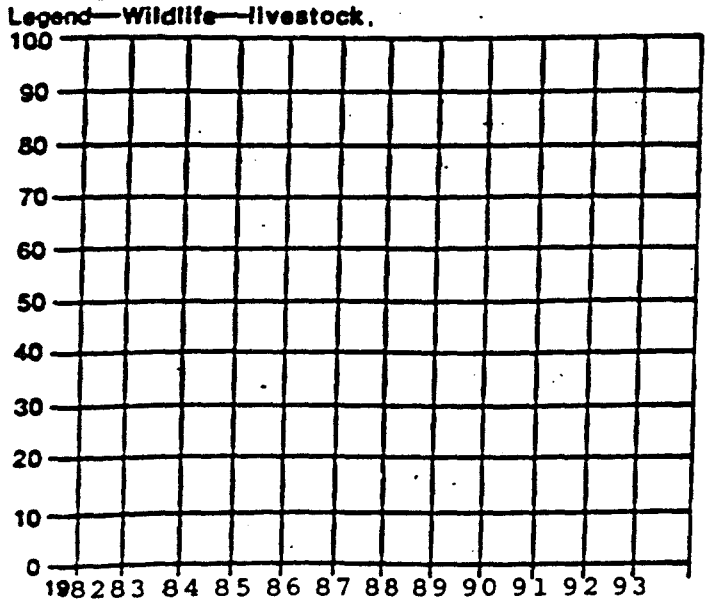
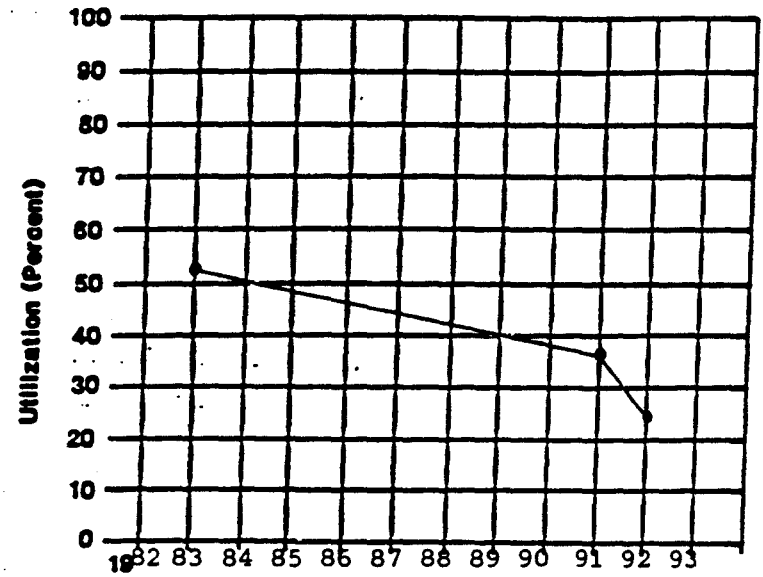
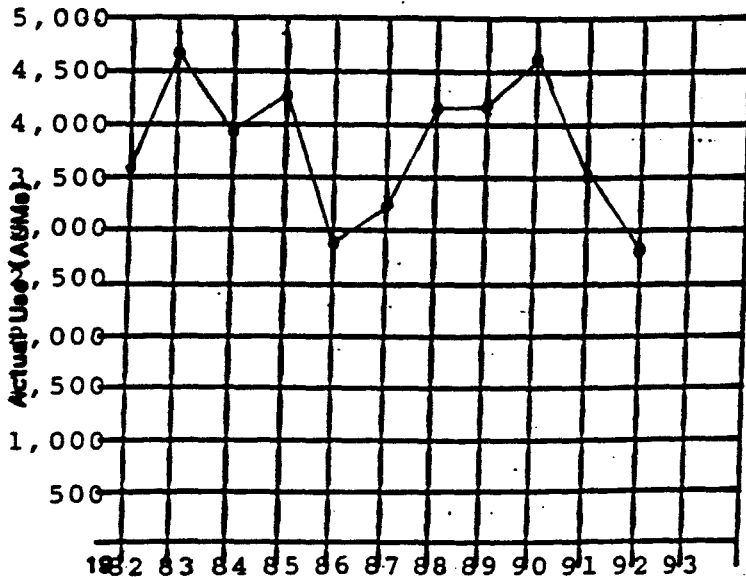
SPAI

POSE

TESP2

SIHY

SAVE4



Ecological Status (Serial Stage)

Early Mid Late PNC

Precipitation (inches)

Legend—Actual—Normal

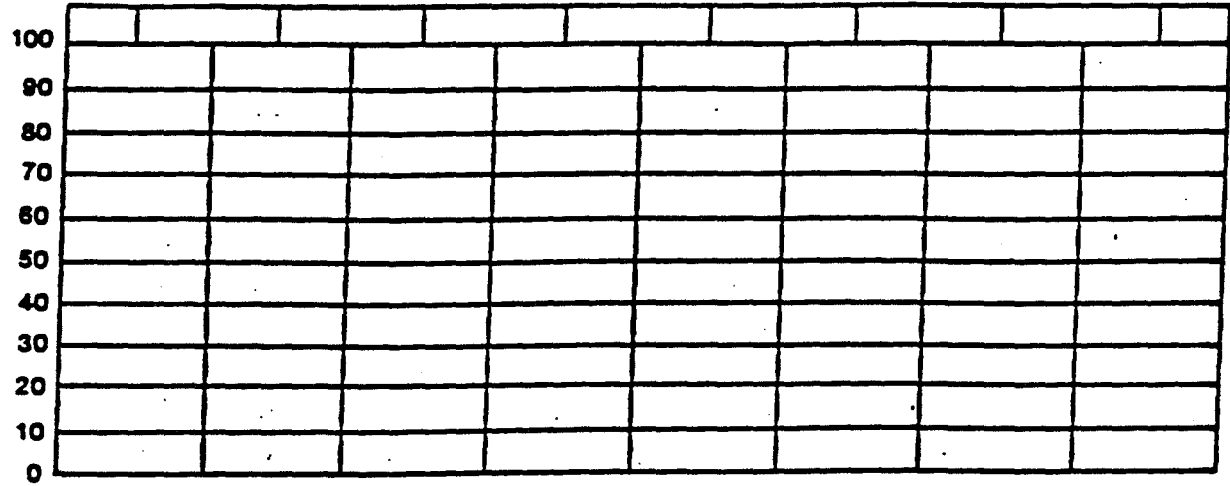
UNITED STATES
DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
BUREAU OF LAND MANAGEMENT

District Battle Mountain	
Planning Area Shoshone/Eureka	Date

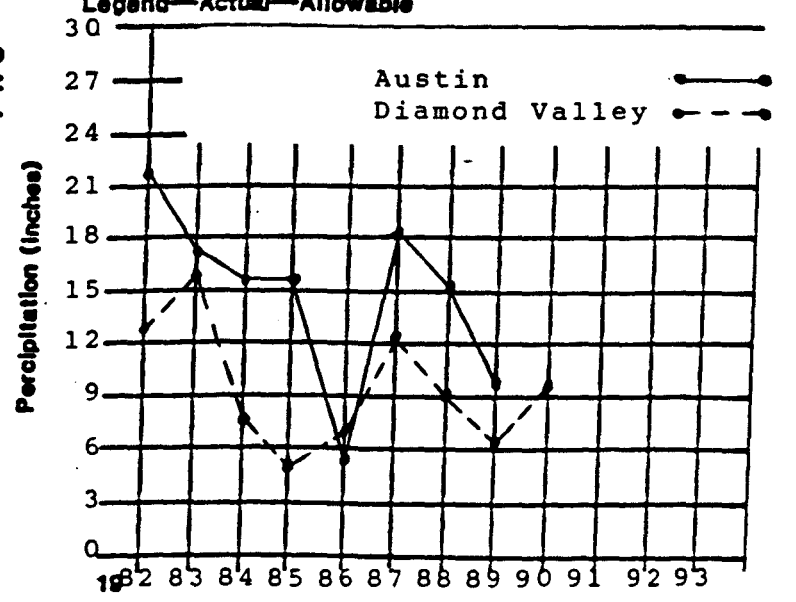
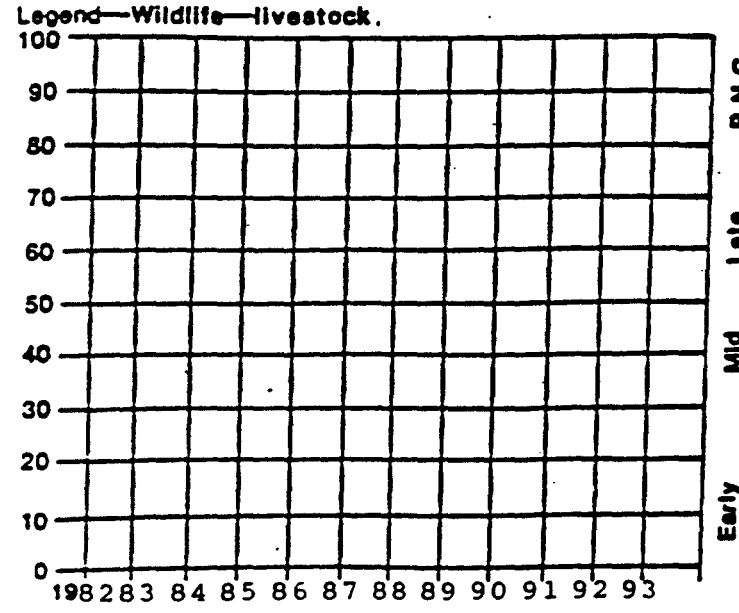
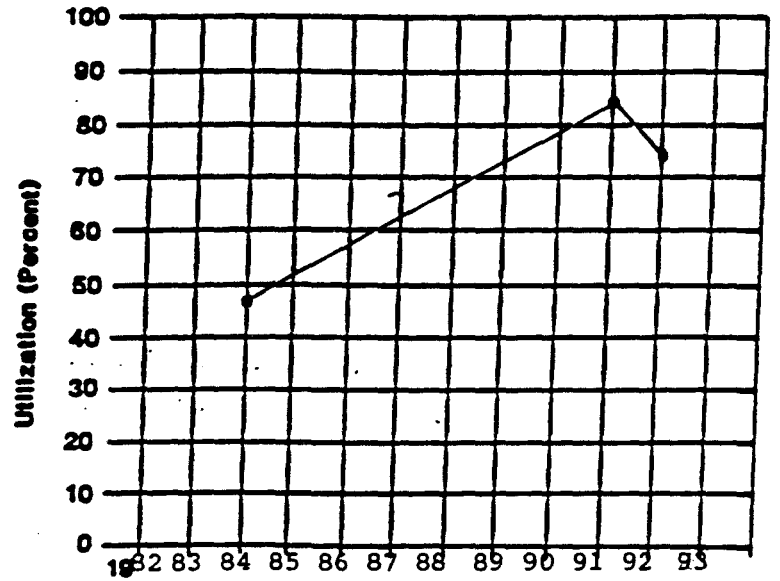
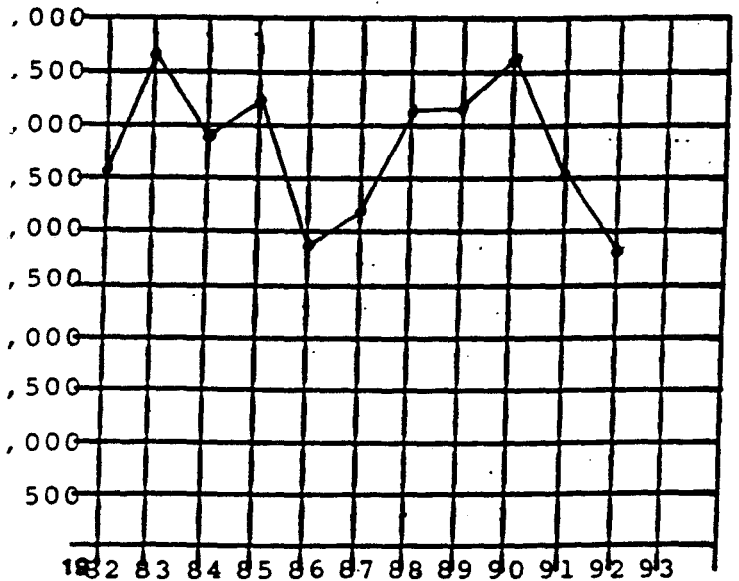
ALLOTMENT EVALUATION SUMMARY

Allotment Willow Ranch	Key Management Area Key Area # 18
---------------------------	--------------------------------------

Trend Index (Frequency)
Date



- Code
Key Species-Color
- ORHY
 - SIHY
 - CELA
 - _____
 - _____
 - _____



UNITED STATES
DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
BUREAU OF LAND MANAGEMENT

District

Battle Mountain

Planning Area

Shoshone/Eureka

Date

ALLOTMENT EVALUATION SUMMARY

Allotment

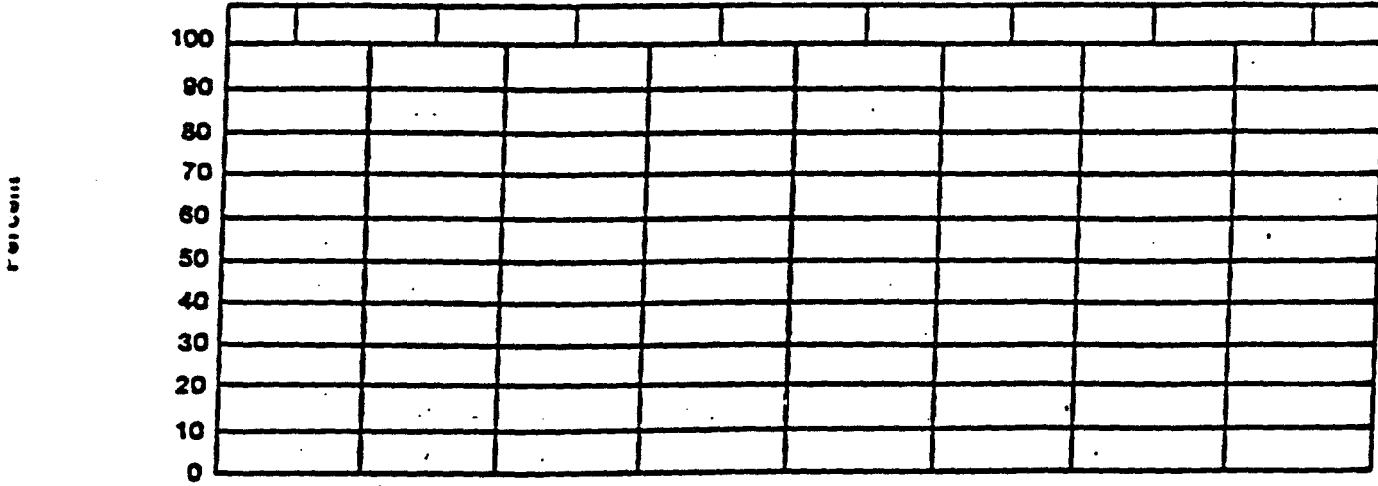
Willow Ranch

Key Management Area

Key Area # 19

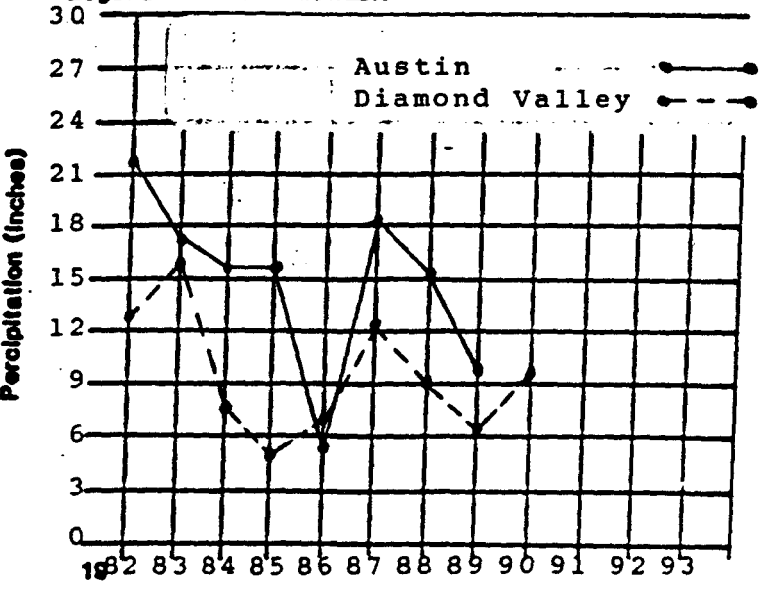
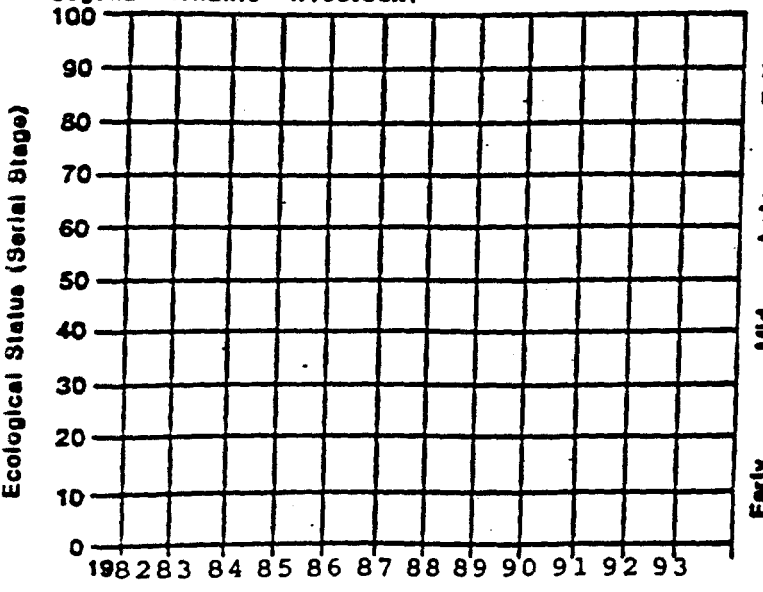
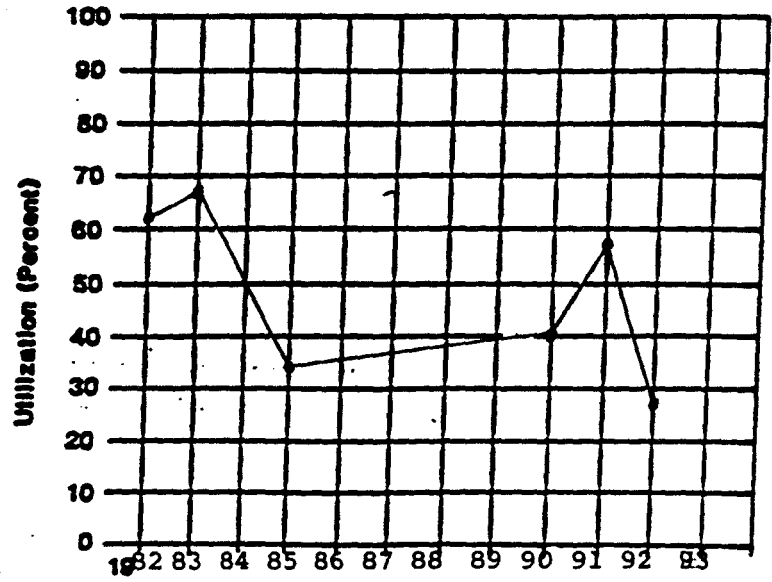
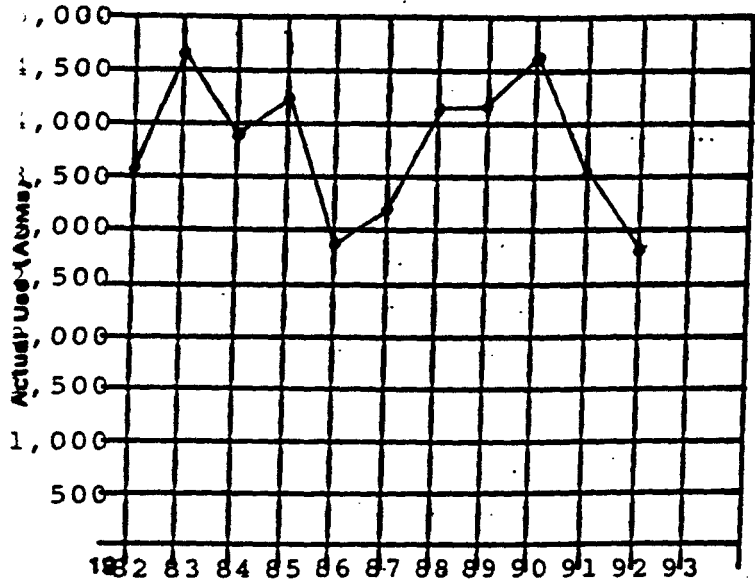
Trend Index (Frequency)
Date

Code
Key Species-Co



ORHY

SIHY



Legend—Actual—Normal

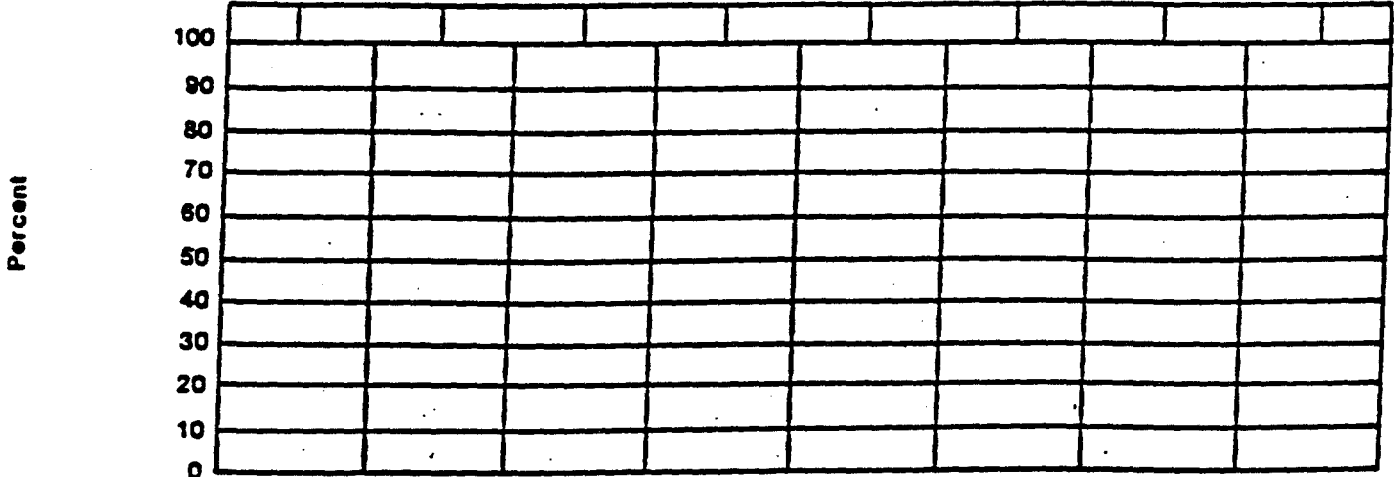
UNITED STATES
DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
BUREAU OF LAND MANAGEMENT

ALLOTMENT EVALUATION SUMMARY

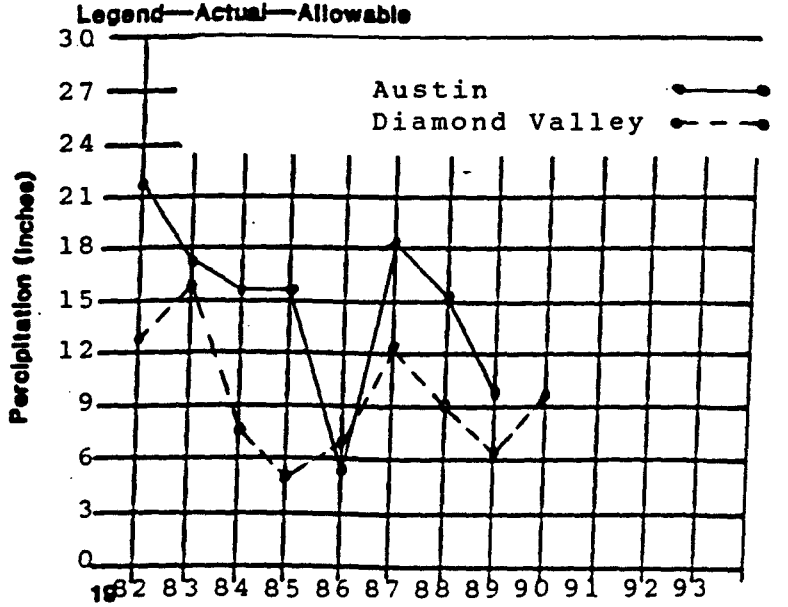
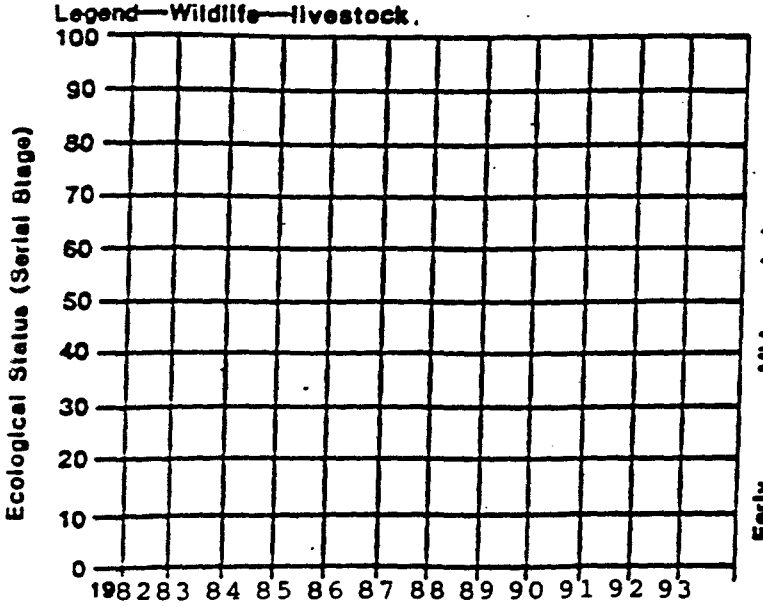
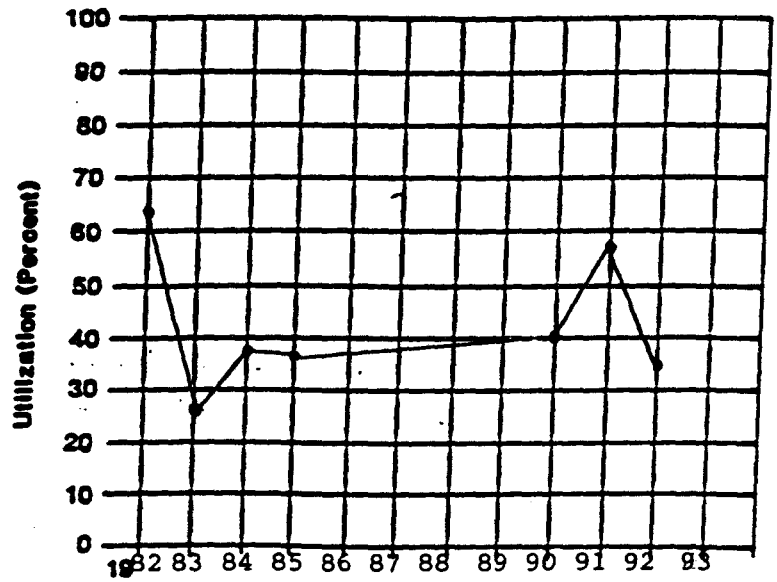
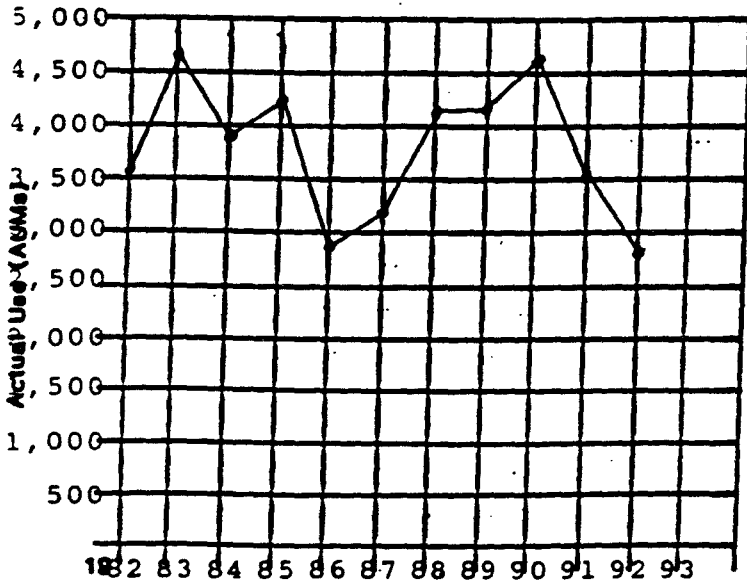
District Battle Mountain	
Planning Area Shoshone/Eureka	Date

Allotment Willow Ranch	Key Management Area Key Area # 20
---------------------------	--------------------------------------

Trend Index (Frequency)
Date



- Code
Key Species-Co
- ORHY
 - SIHY
 - STCO4
 - SPAI



APPENDIX B

<u>AREA OF USE</u>	<u>YEAR</u>	<u>% USE</u>	<u>AUMS USED</u>
Seedings	1992	70%	cattle - 1,493 horses - 0 wildlife - <u>0</u>
			Total AUMs 1,493

(1,493 X 70%) / 70% = 1,493 AUMs desired use (seedings)

Native	1992	53%	cattle - 1,379 horses - 96 wildlife - <u>128</u>
			Total AUMs 1,603

(1,603 X 60%) / 53% = 1,814.7 AUMs desired use (native)

Seedings	1991	66%	cattle - 1,836 horses - 0 wildlife - <u>0</u>
			Total AUMs 1,836

(1,836 X 70%) / 66% = 1,947.3 AUMs desired use (seedings)

Native	1991	56%	cattle - 1,694 horses - 96 wildlife - <u>128</u>
			Total AUMs 1,918

(1,918 X 60%) / 56% = 2,055 AUMs desired use (native)

Seedings	1990	80%	cattle - 2,439 horses - 0 wildlife - <u>0</u>
			Total AUMs 2,439

(2,439 X 70%) / 80% = 2,134.1 AUMs desired use (seedings)

Native	1990	68%	cattle - 2,252 horses - 96 wildlife - <u>128</u>
			Total AUMs 2,476

(2,476 X 60%) / 68% = 2,184.7 AUMs desired use (native)

Average AUM use in the Seedings	=	1,858.1
Average AUM use on the Native	=	<u>2,018.1</u>
Total AUM use in the Allotment	=	3,876.2

Appendix C

Willow Ranch Utilization Calculation

$$\frac{(\text{Severe acres X \% utilization}) + (\text{Heavy acres X \% utilization}) + (\text{Moderate acres X \% utilization})}{\text{Total Acres}}$$

= Percent Weighted Average Utilization

1992 Seedlings

$$\frac{(1740 \text{ acres X } .833) + (768 \text{ acres X } .68) + (512 \text{ acres X } .67) + (1,152 \text{ acres X } .595) + (358 \text{ acres X } .47)}{4,530 \text{ acres}}$$

= 70% Weighted Average Utilization

1992 Native

$$\frac{(410 \text{ acres X } .83) + (256 \text{ acres X } .80) + (4,147 \text{ acres X } .72) + (1,638 \text{ acres X } .62) + (1,613 \text{ acres X } .58) + (2,714 \text{ acres X } .53) + (768 \text{ acres X } .52) + (768 \text{ acres X } .51) + (486 \text{ acres X } .50) + (2,842 \text{ acres X } .46) + (6,144 \text{ acres X } .445) + (1,306 \text{ acres X } .43) + (3,226 \text{ acres X } .41)}{26,318 \text{ acres}}$$

= 53% Weighted Average Utilization

1991 Seedlings

$$\frac{(2,304 \text{ acres X } .87) + (922 \text{ acres X } .755) + (230 \text{ acres X } .71) + (742 \text{ acres X } .62) + (754 \text{ acres X } .63) + (602 \text{ acres X } .58) + (947 \text{ acres X } .53)}{6,501 \text{ acres}}$$

= 66% Weighted Average Utilization

1991 Native

$$\frac{(2,867 \text{ acres X } .67) + (1,536 \text{ acres X } .66) + (3,840 \text{ acres X } .643) + (614 \text{ acres X } .63) + (1,357 \text{ acres X } .60) + (4,505 \text{ acres X } .58) + (2,150 \text{ acres X } .57) + (921 \text{ acres X } .54) + (742 \text{ acres X } .53) + (4,378 \text{ acres X } .528) + (2,406 \text{ acres X } .513) + (2,688 \text{ acres X } .49) + (384 \text{ acres X } .47) + (1,766 \text{ acres X } .445) + (1,229 \text{ acres X } .41)}{31,383 \text{ acres}}$$

= 56% Weighted Average Utilization

1990 Seedlings

$$\frac{(2,100 \text{ acres X } .88) + (2,304 \text{ acres X } .86) + (2,508 \text{ acres X } .68)}{6,912 \text{ acres}}$$

= 80% Weighted Average Utilization

1990 Native

$$\frac{(3,047 \text{ acres X } .84) + (1,357 \text{ acres X } .82) + (14,849 \text{ acres X } .80) + (3,866 \text{ acres X } .74) + (3,021 \text{ acres X } .68) + (614 \text{ acres X } .64) + (538 \text{ acres X } .585) + (3,994 \text{ acres X } .58) + (7,168 \text{ acres X } .54) + (6,041 \text{ acres X } .50)}{44,495 \text{ acres}}$$

= 68% Weighted Average Utilization

APPENDIX D

	YEAR 1		YEAR 2	
	<u>FROM</u>	<u>TO</u>	<u>FROM</u>	<u>TO</u>
LINCOLN SEEDING	05/01	06/07	12/08	12/31
GRIMES NATIVE	06/08	06/30	11/16	12/07
HILLSIDE	07/01	07/31	08/16	09/15
WARM SPRINGS	08/01	08/31	07/16	08/15
TWIN SPRINGS	09/01	10/07	REST	
JACKRABBIT	10/08	11/15	09/16	10/15
GRIMES SEEDING	11/16	12/31	10/16	11/15
BEAN FLAT	REST		06/08	07/15
WOODS SEEDING	REST		05/01	06/07

	YEAR 3		YEAR 4	
	<u>FROM</u>	<u>TO</u>	<u>FROM</u>	<u>TO</u>
LINCOLN SEEDING	09/22	10/21	09/08	10/15
GRIMES NATIVE	08/22	09/21	08/08	09/07
HILLSIDE	05/22	06/15	10/16	11/22
WARM SPRINGS	REST		05/01	05/21
TWIN SPRINGS	05/01	05/21	11/21	12/31
JACKRABBIT	06/16	07/15	REST	
GRIMES SEEDING	07/16	08/21	REST	
BEAN FLAT	12/01	12/31	05/22	06/30
WOODS SEEDING	10/22	11/30	07/01	08/07

	YEAR 5		YEAR 6	
	<u>FROM</u>	<u>TO</u>	<u>FROM</u>	<u>TO</u>
LINCOLN SEEDING	12/01	12/31	REST	
GRIMES NATIVE	11/08	11/30	REST	
HILLSIDE	REST		05/01	05/21
WARM SPRINGS	08/01	08/31	06/22	07/31
TWIN SPRINGS	07/01	07/31	05/22	06/21
JACKRABBIT	06/08	06/30	10/16	11/22
GRIMES SEEDING	05/01	06/07	11/23	12/31
BEAN FLAT	09/01	10/07	08/01	09/07
WOODS SEEDING	10/08	11/07	09/08	10/15

This illustration is limited to six years, however this sequence is intended to circulate continuously in this order. It should be understood that after year six one full cycle would be completed and the same sequence should be repeated for another six year period.

APPENDIX E

Key areas corresponding to critical fawning area for antelope
Fall - 1992

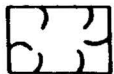
<u>PASTURE</u>	<u>LEGAL DESCRIPTION</u>	<u>% UTILIZATION</u>
<u>TWIN SPRINGS</u>	Stop: A - T19N,R50E, SEC.19	74
	B - T19N,R49E, SEC.36	70
	13- T18N,R50E, SEC.6-8	62
	14- T18N,R49E, SEC.1	61
	15- T19N,R50E, SEC.30-31	53
	33- T19N,R50E, SEC.19	24
	34- T19N,R50E, SEC.32	30
	35- T19N,R50E, SEC.19	31
		405/8
	AVERAGE = 51%	

<u>PASTURE</u>	<u>LEGAL DESCRIPTION</u>	<u>% UTILIZATION</u>
<u>S.HILLSIDE</u>	I - T19N,R49E, SEC.34	49
	31- T19N,R49E, SEC.22	35
	32- T19N,R49E, SEC.27	43
	46- T19N,R49E, SEC.29	12
		139/4
	AVERAGE = 35%	

<u>PASTURE</u>	<u>LEGAL DESCRIPTION</u>	<u>% UTILIZATION</u>
<u>JACKRABBIT</u>	C - T18N,R49E, SEC.11	83
	D - T18N,R49E, SEC. 2	54
	E - T18N,R49E, SEC. 3	39
	F - T18N,R49E, SEC. 4	46
	G - T18N,R49E, SEC. 4	30
	H - T19N,R49E, SEC.33	38
	11- T18N,R49E, SEC.10	20
	12- T18N,R49E, SEC. 2	50
		360/8
	AVERAGE = 45%	

* Key species include: SIHY, ORHY, STCO4, ARARN, CHVI8, ATCO, CELA

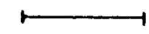
WILLOW RANCH ALLOTMENT



Wild Horse Herd Management Area

MAP 1

WILD HORSE HERD USE AREA
ONE MILE
NORTH



M O N I T O R

31

36

1872

F L A T

B E A N

895

JEEP TRAIL

Warm Spring

Cold Spring

Twin Springs

Clover Spring

Shamrock Spring

1902

R. Oylar

50

W I L L O W

TWIN SPRING HILLS

2114

31

36

31

36

31

T 19 N

T 18 1/2 N

LANDER CO
EUREKA CO

Jackrabby Spring

1960

6

Creek

Creek

Paroni Spring

Inside

Dagget

Keynote

Padlar

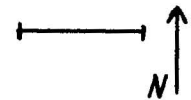
Faulkner

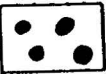
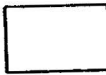
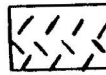




GN 185

WILLOW RANCH ALLOTMENT

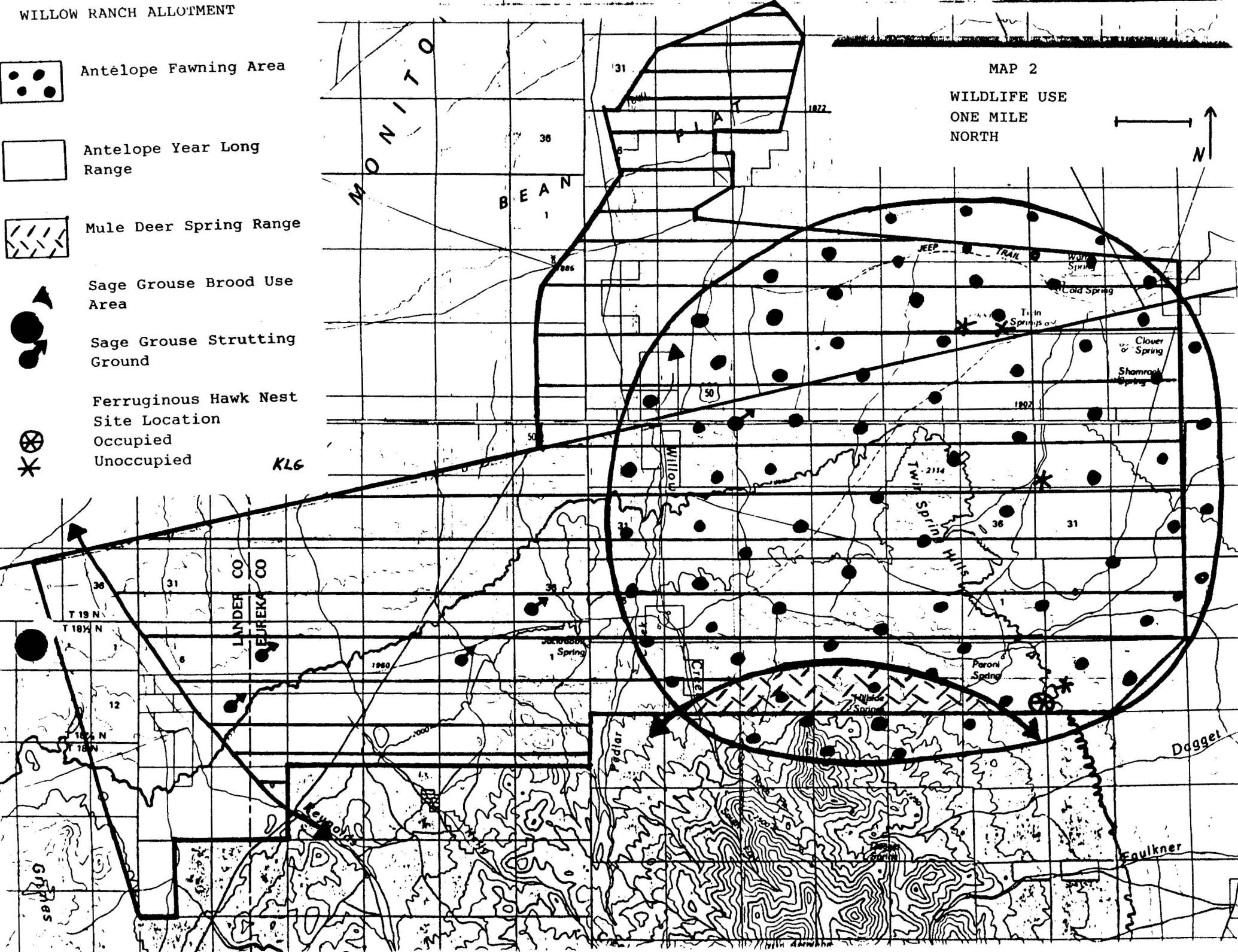
MAP 2

WILDLIFE USE
ONE MILE
NORTH

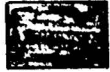


-  Antelope Fawning Area
-  Antelope Year Long Range
-  Mule Deer Spring Range
-  Sage Grouse Brood Use Area
-  Sage Grouse Strutting Ground
-  Ferruginous Hawk Nest Site Location Occupied
-  Ferruginous Hawk Nest Site Location Unoccupied

KLG



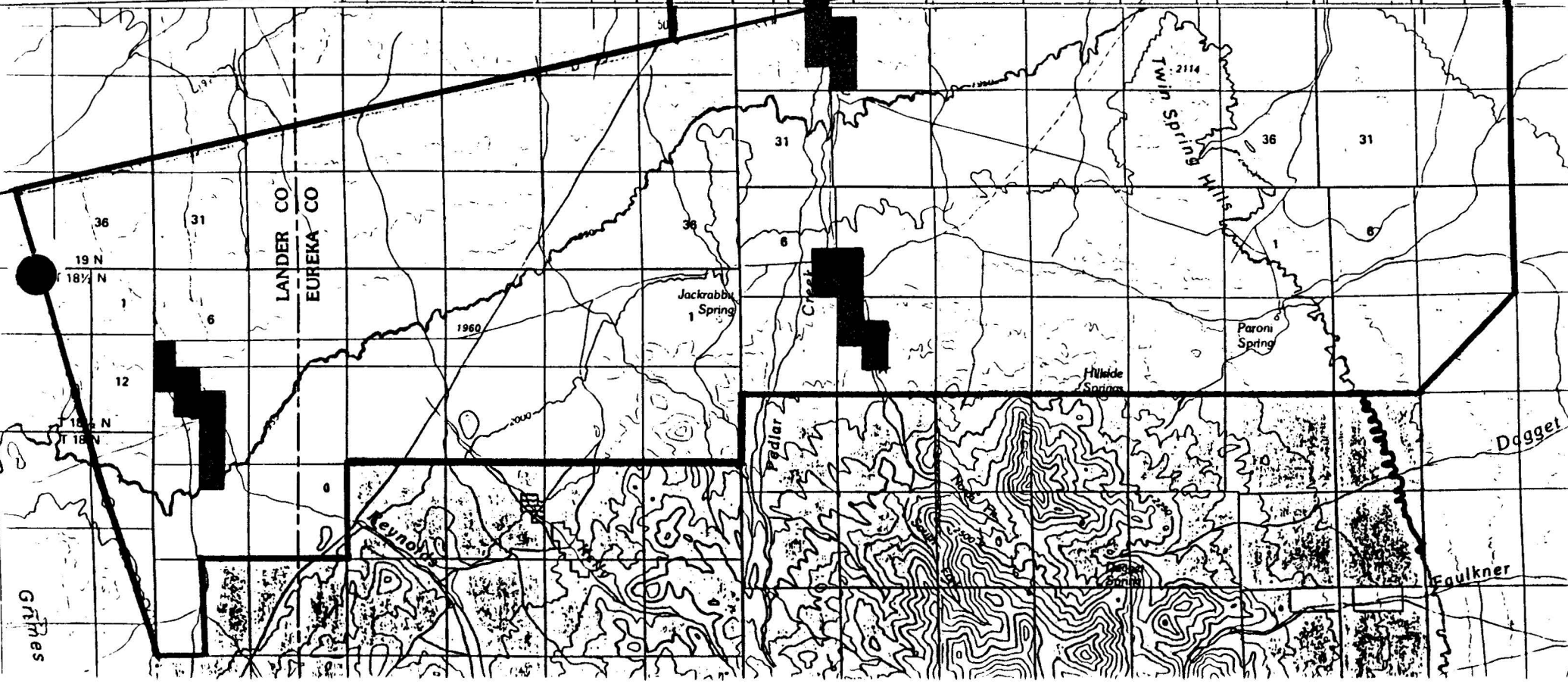
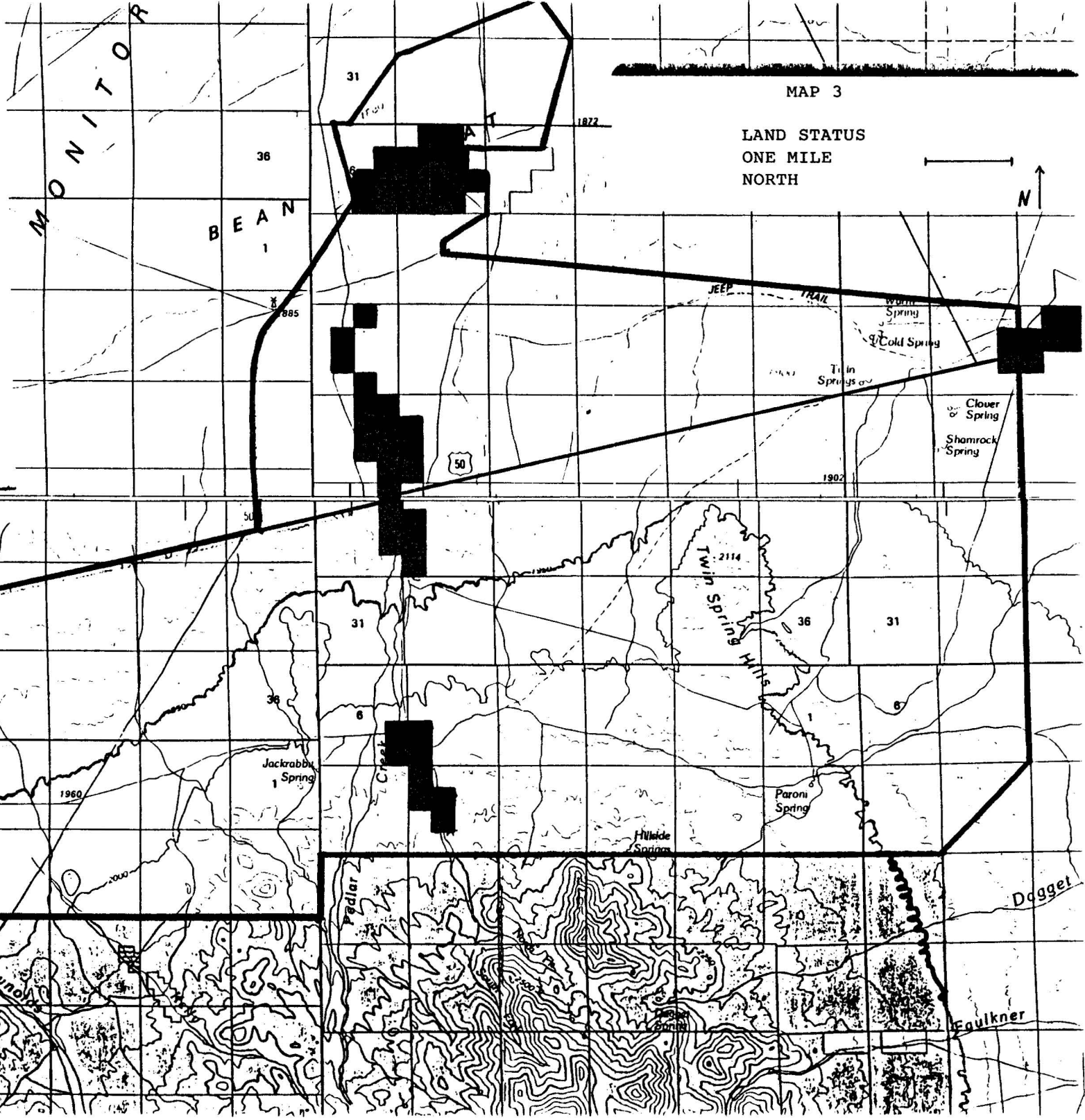
WILLOW RANCH ALLOTMENT



Private Land

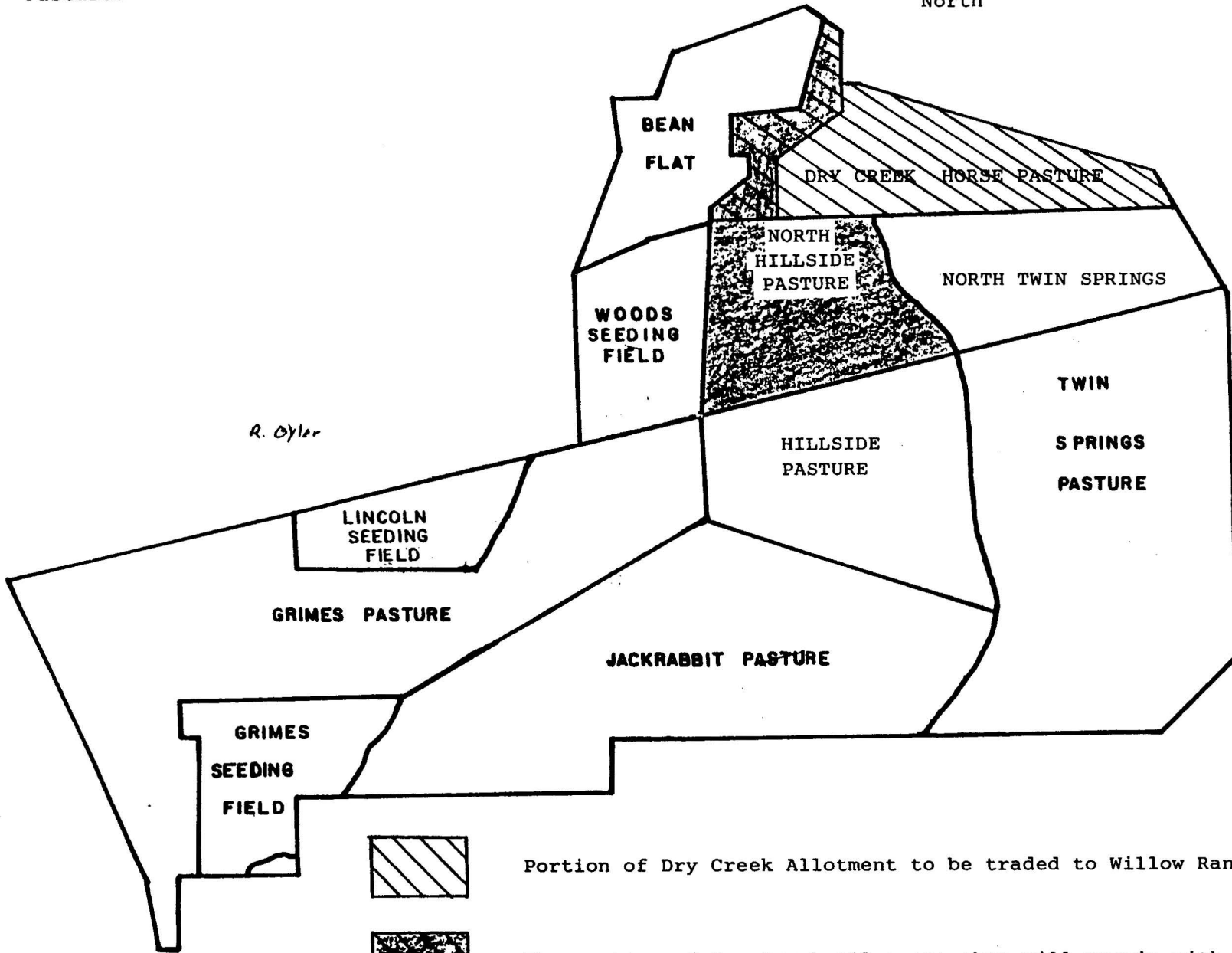


BLM Land



Pastures

Pastures and Seedings
North



R. Oylar



Portion of Dry Creek Allotment to be traded to Willow Ranch.



The portion of Dry Creek Allotment that will remain with the Dry Creek Allotment.



Willow Ranch portion to be traded to Dry Creek Ranch.

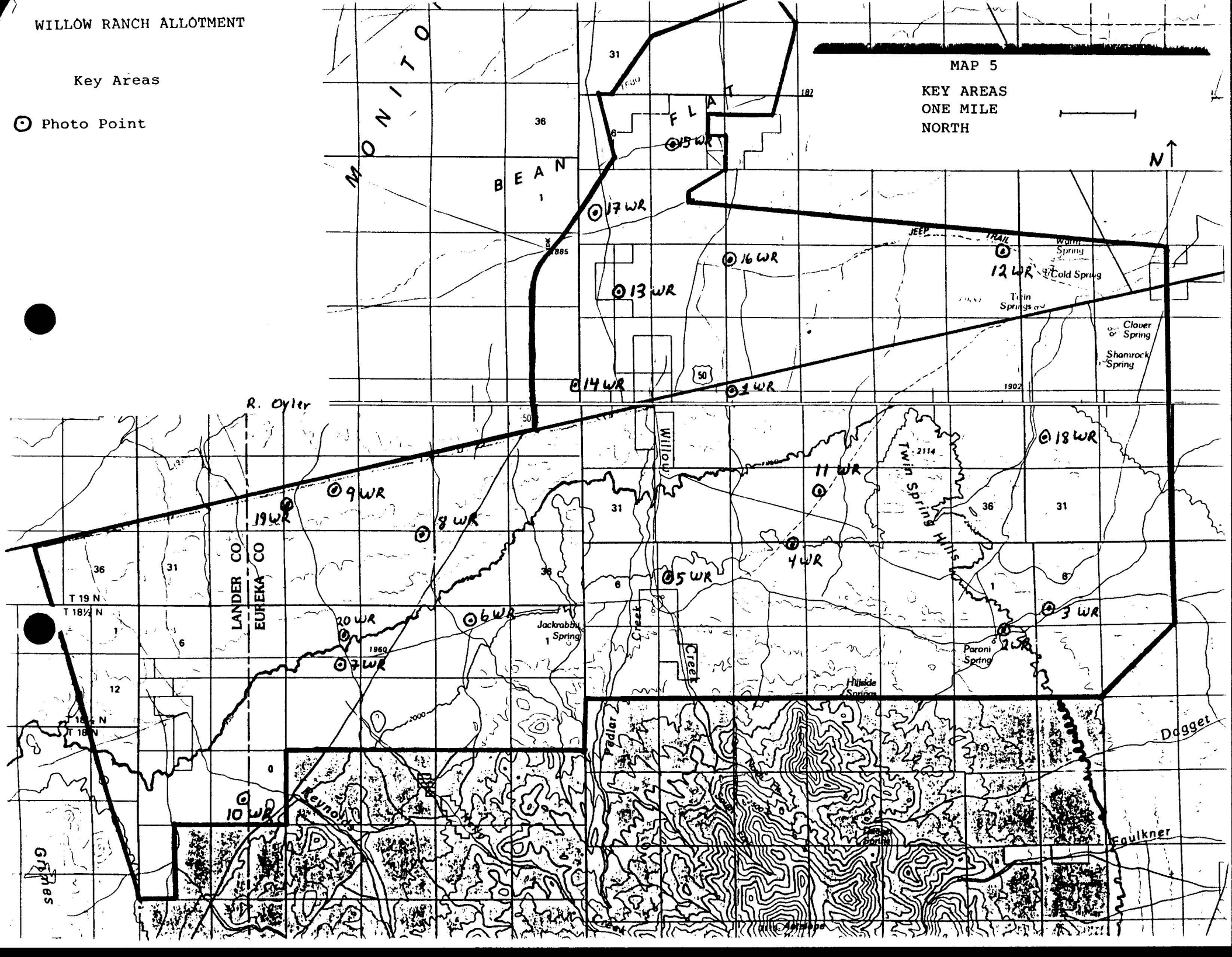
WILLOW RANCH ALLOTMENT

Key Areas

⊙ Photo Point




MAP 5

KEY AREAS
ONE MILE
NORTH



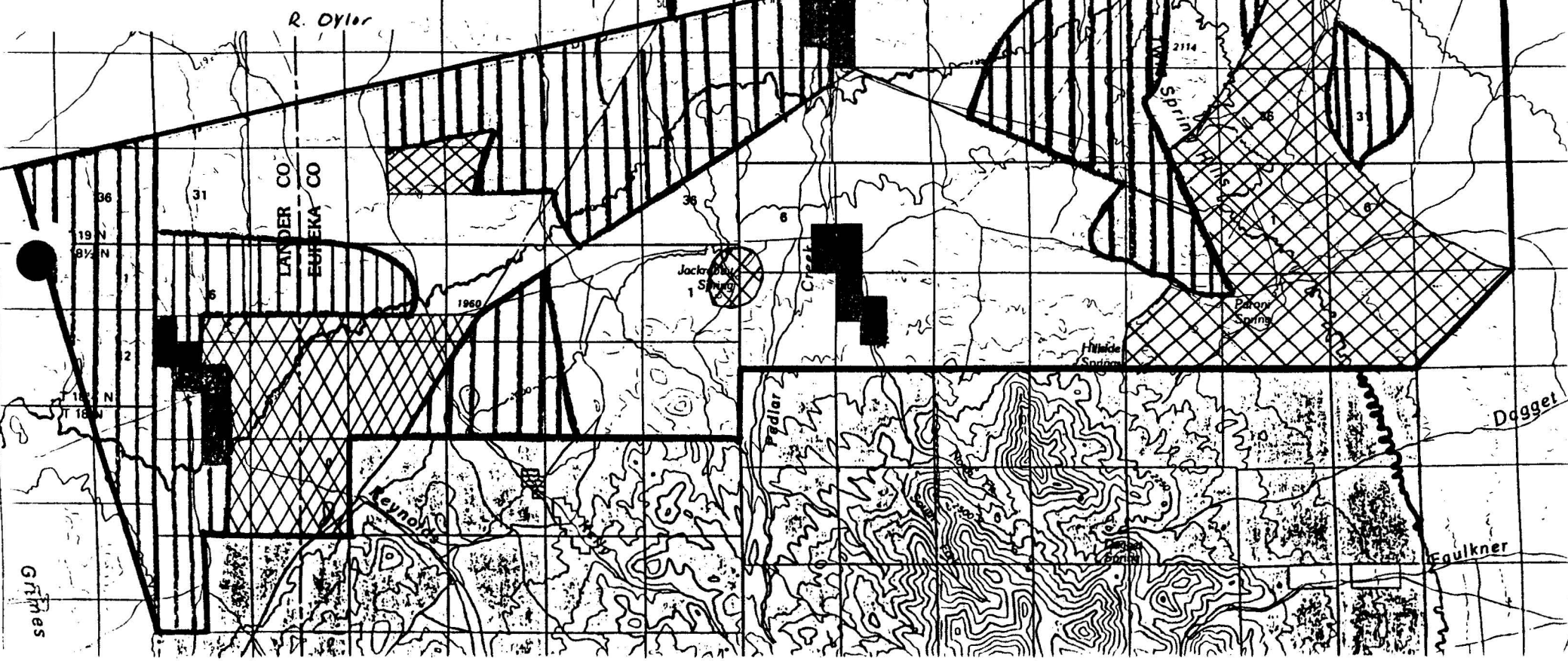
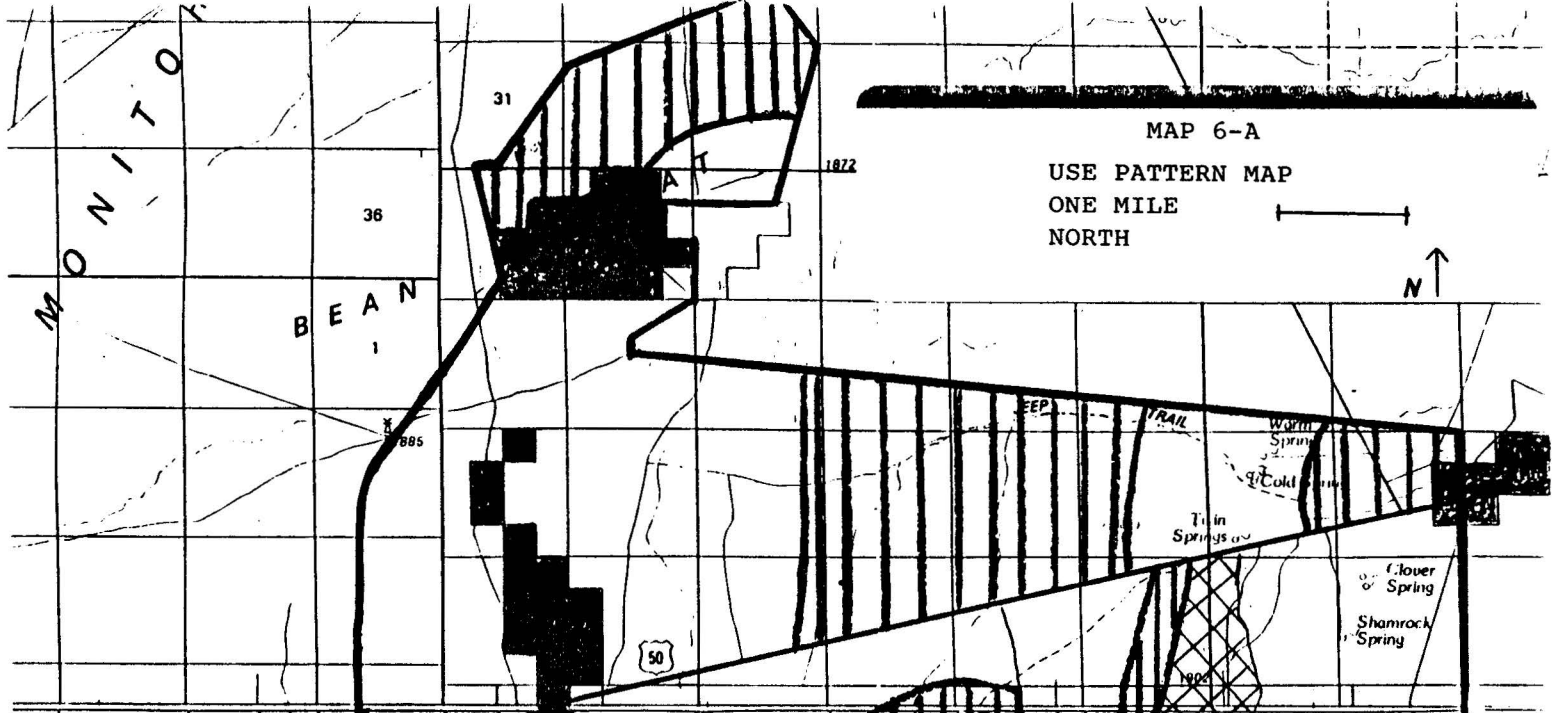
WILLOW RANCH ALLOTMENT

USE PATTERN MAP FALL 1992

-  Heavy Use 61-100%
-  Moderate Use 41-60%
-  Private Land

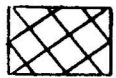
MAP 6-A

USE PATTERN MAP
ONE MILE
NORTH



WILLOW RANCH ALLOTMENT

USE PATTERN MAP FALL 1991



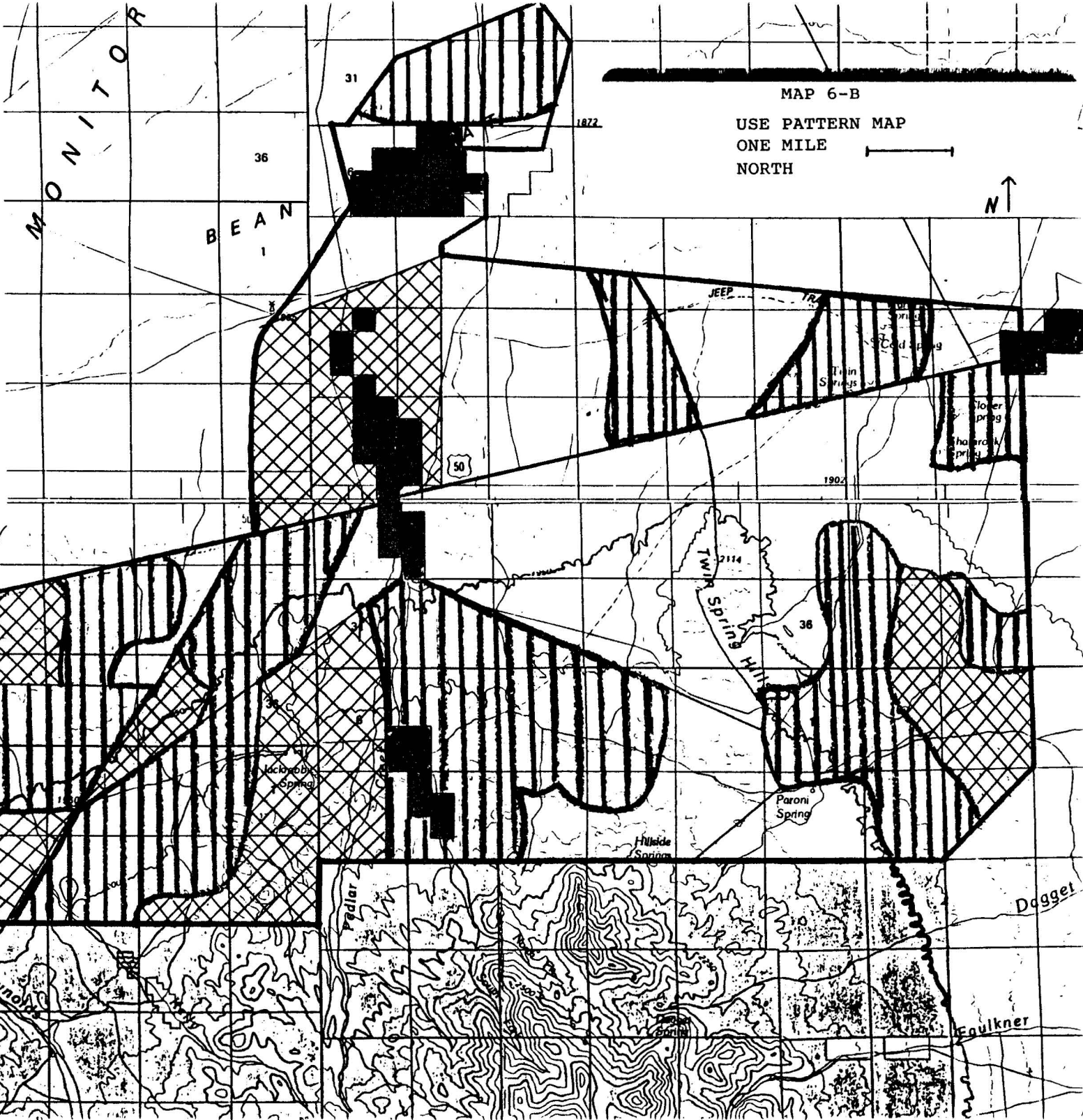
Heavy Use 61-100%



Moderate Use 41-60%



Private Land



WILLOW RANCH ALLOTMENT

USE PATTERN MAP MARCH 1991



Heavy Use 61-100%



Moderate Use 41-60%



Private Land

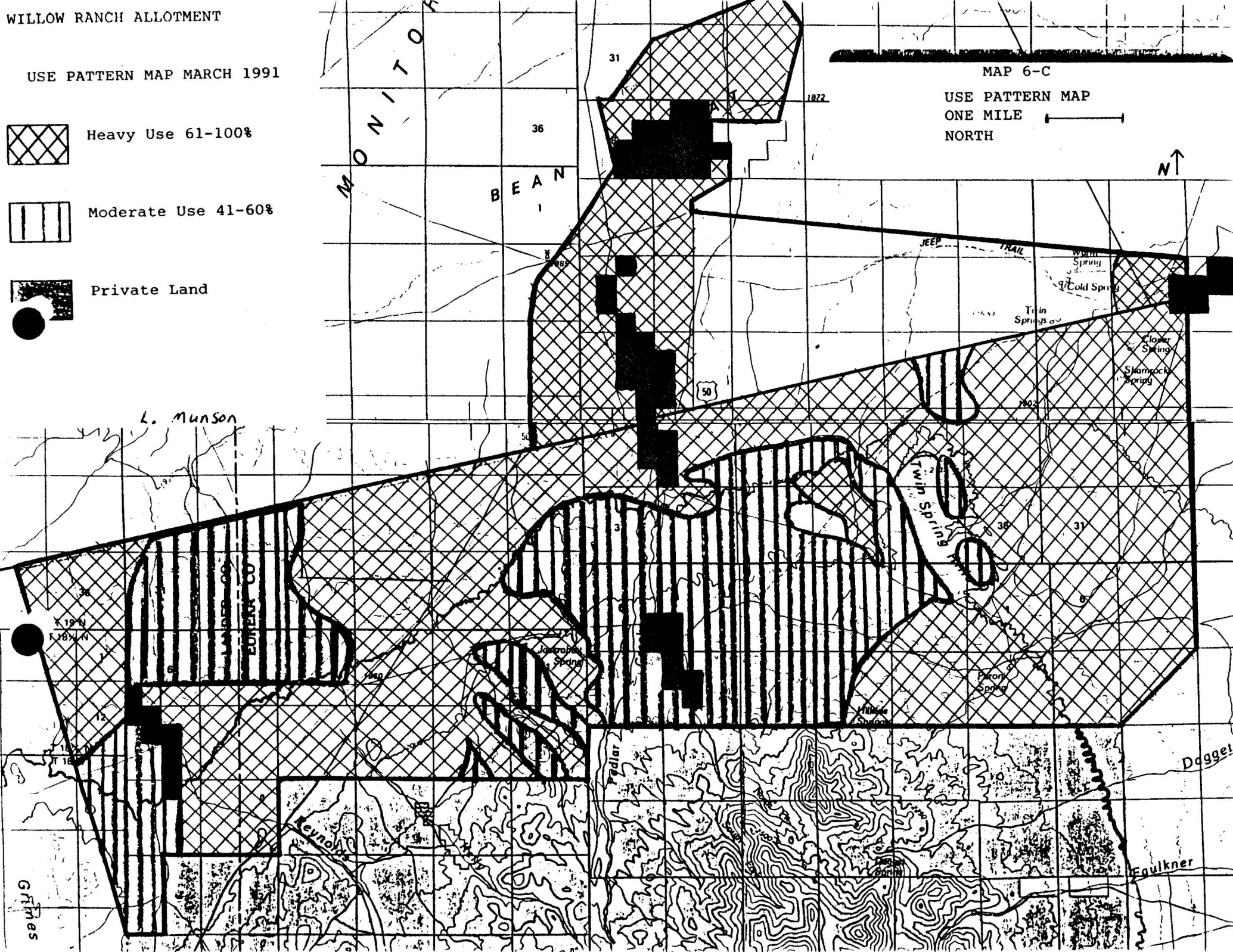
MAP 6-C

USE PATTERN MAP

ONE MILE



NORTH





United States Department of the Interior



BUREAU OF LAND MANAGEMENT
Shoshone-Eureka Resource Area
P.O. Box 1420
Battle Mountain, NV 89820

IN REPLY REFER TO

4400.3
(NV064.10)

Dear Interested Party:


Enclosed for your review is the draft Willow Ranch Allotment Evaluation. We would appreciate your review of this document. Please mail your written comments to us by September 7, 1993.

A meeting to discuss your concerns will be held on Tuesday, September 14, 1992 in the Battle Mountain District Office at 1:00 p.m. We hope this meeting will result in agreements by all the parties concerned. Please review the document thoroughly and be prepared to discuss your concerns.

Any decisions or agreements resulting from the evaluation are intended for implementation beginning with the 1994 grazing year.

If you have any questions, please contact Rick Oyler, Range Conservationist, at 702-635-4000.

Sincerely,


Wayne King
Area Manager

Enclosure
as stated

Animal Protection Institute of America	P 870 693 535
Nevada State Department of Agriculture	P 870 693 534
Commission for the Preservation of Wild Horses & Burros	P 870 693 738
Resource Concepts, Inc	P 870 693 739
Wild Horse Organized Assistance	P 870 693 740
Public Lands Committee Sierra Club	P 870 693 741
U.S Fish & Wildlife Service	P 870 693 742
Nevada Cattlemen's Association	P 870 693 743
Nevada Department of Wildlife	P 870 693 744
Nevada Department of Wildlife	P 870 693 745
Natural Resource Defense Council	P 870 693 746
Mike Blake	P 870 693 747
Toiyabe National Forest	P 870 693 748
ISPMB	P 870 693 749
Russell Ranches	P 870 693 750
Nye County Commissioners	P 870 693 751
Georgia Earth Alliance	P 870 693 813
U.S. Humane Society	P 870 693 812
Nevada Farm Bureau Federation	P 870 693 811
Morgan, Lewis & Bockius	P 870 693 810
Cooper & Smith	P 870 693 809
Sanwa Bank	P 870 693 808
Thomas Van Horne	P 870 693 807
Intermountain Federal Land Bank Association	P 870 693 806
Bank of America National Trust	P 870 693 805
John Stratman	P 870 693 804
Traveler's Insurance Company	P 870 693 803

DRAFT
WILLOW RANCH
ALLOTMENT EVALUATION

BATTLE MOUNTAIN DISTRICT
SHOSHONE-EUREKA RESOURCE AREA

AUGUST 04, 1993

O R E G O N I D A H O

H U M B O L D T

P E R S H I N G

C H U R C H I L L

L A N D E R E U R E K A

W I L L O W R A N C H S E T T L E M E N T

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L I N C O L N

BATTLE MOUNTAIN DISTRICT

SHOSHONE - EUREKA

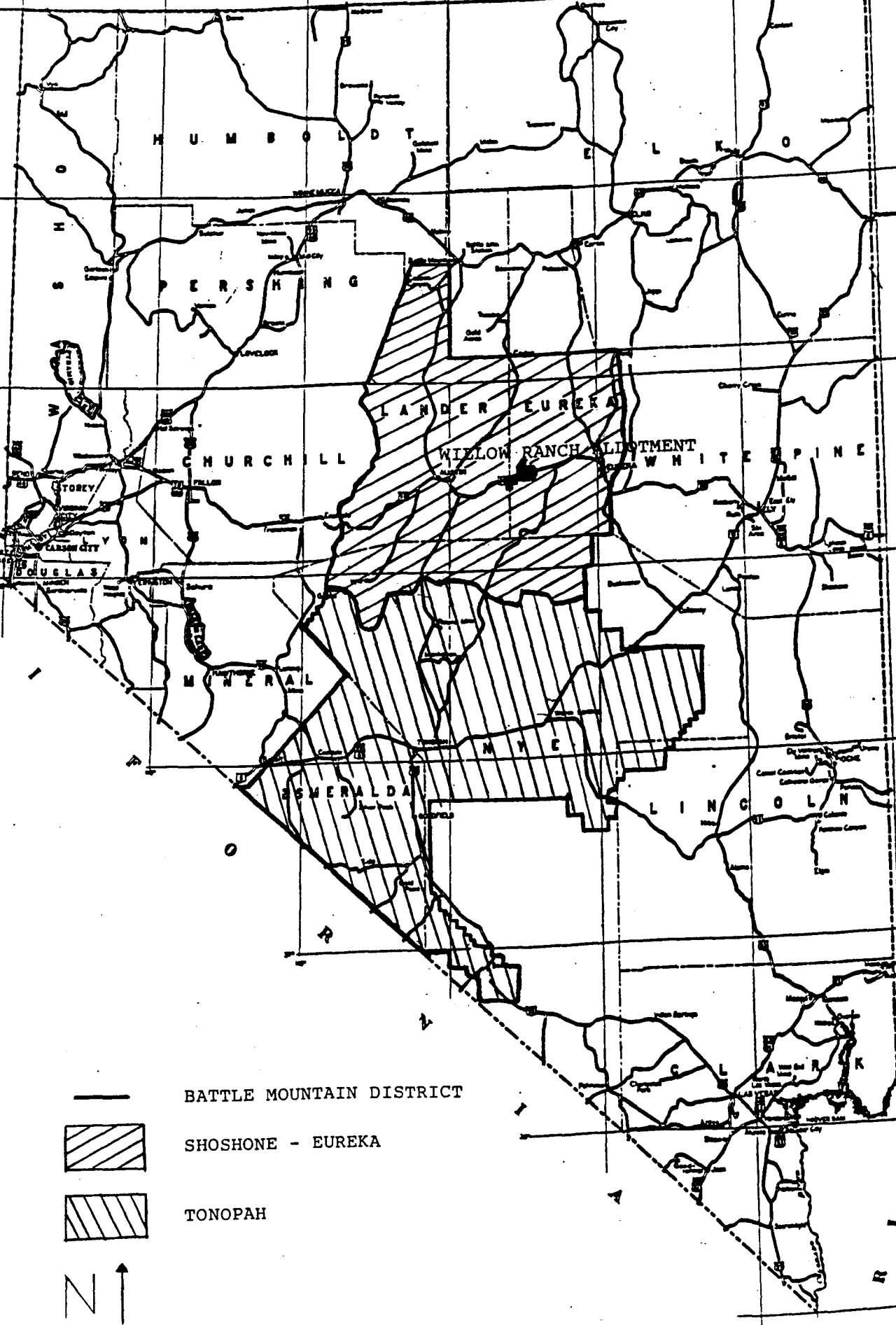
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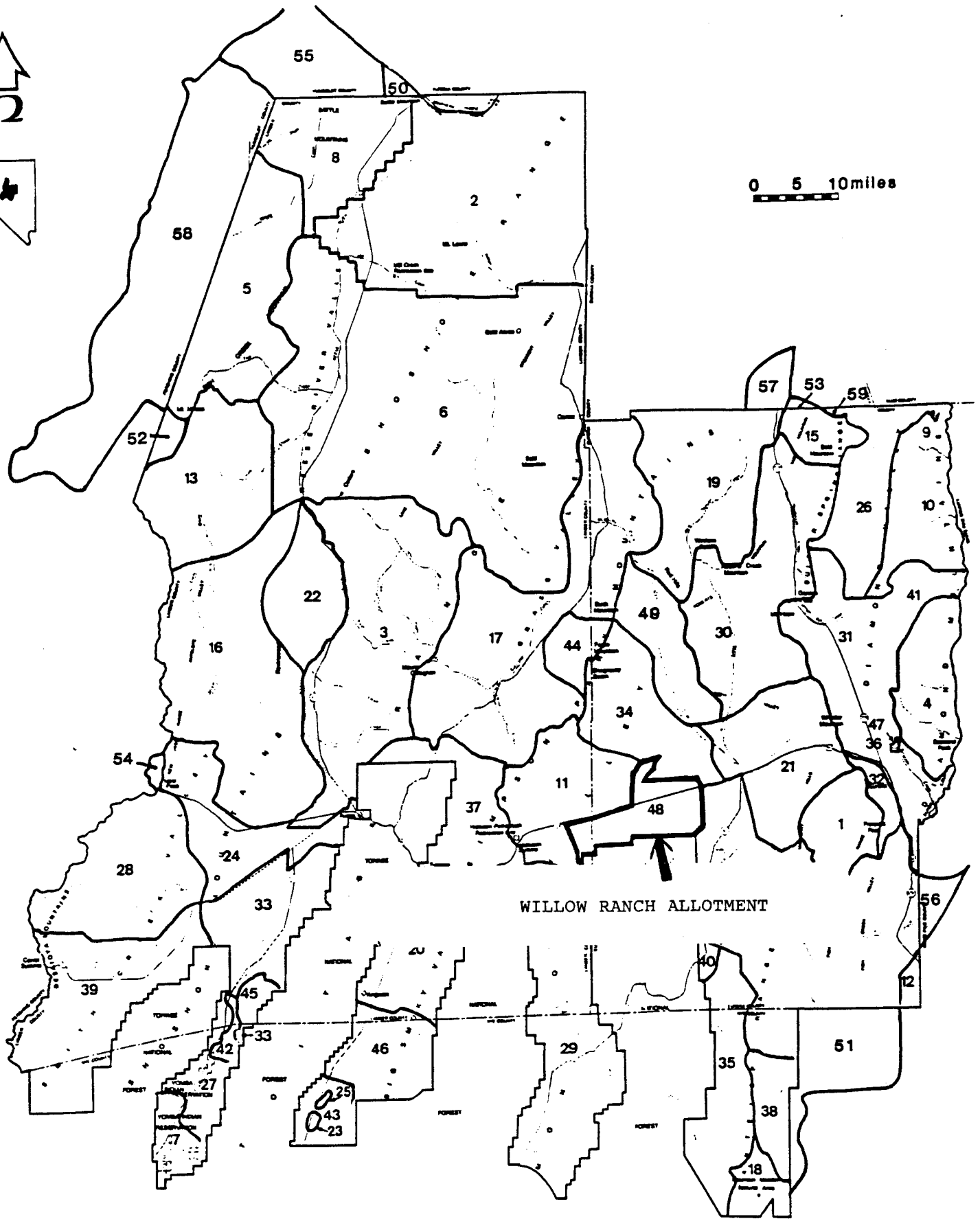


STORY
CARMICHAEL
DUGLAS

Central
California
California
California
California
California

Central
California
California
California
California
California





59 LIVESTOCK GRAZING ALLOTMENTS

U.S. DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
Bureau of Land Management
SHOSHONE - EUREKA
RANGELAND PROGRAM SUMMARY

WILLOW RANCH ALLOTMENT EVALUATION
(Draft)

I. Introduction

- A. Allotment Name and Number: Willow Ranch, #00062
- B. Permittee: Daniel H. Russell
- C. Evaluation Period: 1982-1993
- D. Selective Management Category and Priority: Maintain, Medium

II. Initial STOCKING LEVEL

A. Livestock Use:

- 1. Existing Preference (AUMS) :
 - a) Total Preference : 5,370
 - b) Suspended : 0
 - c) Active : 5,370
 - d) Temp Non-renewable : 0
- 2. Season of Use: April 16 to December 31
- 3. Kind and Class of Livestock: Cattle
- 4. Percent Federal Range: 100%

B. Wild Horse Use (see map 1):

- 1. The Shoshone-Eureka Land Use Plan Objectives (LUP) is to provide for 96 AUMs of forage for 8 head of horses within the North Monitor Herd Management Area (HMA).
- 2. 100% of the HMA is within the Willow Ranch Allotment south of state highway 50.

C. Wildlife Use (see map 2):

- 1. Big Game (Mule Deer and Antelope)
 - a) Initial numbers: 128 AUMs
 - b) Key/Critical Areas: Deer yearlong range lies up against the Forest Service boundary and southern end of the allotment. Antelope yearlong range is located throughout the Willow Ranch Allotment. No areas of critical antelope winter range are found within the allotment, however, a critical antelope fawning area, located within the east side of the allotment, was documented by the Nevada Department of Wildlife (NDOW) in 1989-1990.

2. Upland Game Bird (Sage grouse)
 - a) Initial numbers: none listed.
 - b) Key/Critical Areas: Five sage grouse strutting ground-nesting areas and one sage grouse brood rearing area are located within the allotment. Birds mate and nest in the lower elevation areas and rear broods in the highland meadows. Some brood rearing use is made of higher meadows. No information is available on wintering grounds; the lowlands on the north end of the Monitor Range are considered likely areas within the allotment.

3. Raptors
 - a) Threatened and/or Endangered: The Category 2 candidate species ferruginous hawk (Buteo regalis) is frequently observed in the allotment; summer hunting activity takes place throughout the area. One active nest was noted in a juniper tree within one mile of Paroni Spring in 1992. Four other inactive nests were found within the allotment.
 - b) Key/Critical Areas: Nest sites are located in juniper trees. Certainly there is no shortage of nest sites, nor is there likely to be. The survival of this species depends on prey availability and primary prey consists of ground squirrels in the spring and early summer and jackrabbits in late summer and fall. Raptors do not hunt well in high brush or thick sage. Important critical, key hunting areas are that of low sage and/or shadscale overstory in open stands and of white sage in solid stands.
 - c) Other hawks: Common nesting-summering species include the kestrel, the red-tailed hawk, the Swainson's hawk, the marsh hawk, the Cooper's hawk, the sharp-shinned hawk and the golden eagle. The American rough-legged hawk winters over most of the lowlands of the allotment.
 - d) Owls: The great horned owl, the screech owl, the long-eared owl, the short-eared owl and the burrowing owl are all common residents of the allotment.

4. Other Wildlife

Threatened and/or Endangered: the Category 2 candidate species pygmy rabbit (Brachylagus idahoensis) is likely to be found in scattered tall sagebrush stands in the lowlands within the allotment.

Threatened and/or Endangered: the Category 2 candidate species loggerhead shrike (Lanius ludovicianus) is found summering in the lowland and foothill tall sagebrush communities and nests in the tall sage stands.

A large variety of predatory and non-game mammals inhabit the Willow Ranch allotment. Cats include bobcat and occasional cougars, and the canine family is represented by the coyote, gray fox and kit fox. An occasional spotted skunk has been noted, and the badger is common. Over 100 species of passerine birds have been recorded as seasonally inhabiting the Willow Ranch allotment. A variety of lagomorph, mouse and vole species furnish a food base for the numerous and varied predatory species mentioned.

III. ALLOTMENT PROFILE

A. Description:

The Willow Ranch Allotment is located 35 miles west of Eureka, Nevada, on highway 50, in the Shoshone/Eureka Resource Area of the Battle Mountain District. The allotment terrain varies from level valleys to moderate mountains, with elevations ranging from 6,200 feet to 7,000 feet, respectively. Climate is characterized by warm, dry summers and cool, wet winters. Precipitation ranges from 8 inches in the valleys, to 16 inches in the mountains. The major vegetation type of the lowlands (6,000-6,500ft) is big sagebrush, with an understory of Sandberg's bluegrass, bottlebrush squirreltail, white sage, and Indian ricegrass. At the higher elevations (6,500-7,000ft), the vegetation type is primarily pinyon-juniper, big sagebrush, black sagebrush, and an understory of bottlebrush squirreltail, Thurber's needlegrass, Indian ricegrass, basin wildrye and Nevada bluegrass.

B. Acreage:

1. Land Status

There is a total of 65,011 acres in the Willow Ranch Allotment. Approximately 1,501 acres is fenced private land. (see land status map 3)

2. Pastures

The permittee's of the Willow Ranch and Dry Creek Allotments have agreed to a pasture exchange. The Willow Ranch Allotment will exchange the North Hillside pasture for the Dry Creek Allotment, Horse Pasture. There will be no change in Animal Unit Months (AUMs) for either allotment. In the pasture rotation for the Willow Ranch Allotment has been set up to include the pasture exchange. The portion of the Twin Springs pasture north of highway 50, and the Horse Pasture will be referred to as the Warm Springs Pasture. This will divide the allotment into 9 pastures, they are as follows: (see pastures & seedings map 4)

pasture 1:	Grimes Seeding
pasture 2:	Lincoln Seeding
pasture 3:	Woods Seeding
pasture 4:	Bean Flat
pasture 5:	Grimes Native
pasture 6:	Hillside Native
pasture 7:	Jackrabbit Native
pasture 8:	Twin Spring Native
pasture 9:	Warm Springs

3. Wild Horse Herd Management Area Status

The North Monitor HMA lies north of the adjoining Forest Service Kelly Creek Wild Horse Territory. The North Monitor Herd Management Area is managed in conjunction with the Kelly Creek Territory by the Forest Service (Austin Ranger District) through an Interagency Agreement between the two agencies since 1984. In the agreement, the Forest Service was designated the lead agency responsible for aerial monitoring and management actions.

C. Allotment Specific Objectives:

1. Land Use Plan (LUP)/Rangeland Program Summary (RPS) Objectives.

a) Vegetation and Ecological Condition

- (1) Utilization not to exceed 50% on key species by seed dissemination, and 60% by end of grazing year.
- (2) Utilization on crested wheatgrass seedings not to exceed 50% by seed dissemination, and 70% by the end of the grazing year.

- b) Livestock Use
 - (1) In the short term, manage at existing use levels of 2,924 AUMs.
 - (2) In the long term, manage use at 2,924 AUMs.
- c) Wild Horse and Burro
 - (1) Initially manage to provide 300 AUMs of forage within the North Monitor Herd Management Area.
 - (2) Maintain or improve wild horse habitat in a condition which enhances or preserves their wild and free-roaming behavior, in conformance with other objectives of the Resource Management Plan (RMP).
 - (3) Maintain or improve wild horse habitat by free access to water, in conformance with other objectives of the RMP.
- d) Wildlife Use
 - (1) In the short term, manage at existing big game use at 8 AUMs, in conformance with other objectives of the RMP.
 - (2) In the long term, provide habitat to support 159 AUMs of big game use.
 - (3) Manage rangeland habitat to maintain or enhance (vegetative conditions in) sagegrouse strutting, nesting (and brood rearing) areas, in conformance with other objectives of the RMP.

2. Activity Plan Objectives

- a) Allotment Management Plan

There was an Allotment Management Plan (AMP) approved for the Willow Ranch Allotment in December 1965, and a revision 1967. The AMP set up a rest rotation grazing system.

3. Threatened and/or Endangered Plant Species

- a) Improve and maintain habitat for state listed sensitive species and federally listed threatened or endangered species.
- b) There have been no threatened and endangered plant species identified in the allotment.

4. Threatened and/or Endangered Animal Species

- a) Improve and maintain habitat for state listed sensitive species and federally listed threatened or endangered species.

- b) Although there are no known threatened and endangered animal species, two candidate species: 1) The Ferruginous hawk was observed actively nesting during the June 13-17, 1992 Ferruginous hawk flight survey (see Map 2). 2) The loggerhead shrike also nests and resides on the allotment. There are several other Category 2 candidate species that may occur in the allotment. These are as follows: The pygmy rabbit, spotted bat, black tern, western least bittern and the white-faced ibis.

D. Key Species Identification:

1. The following is a table of several Key species identified in the allotment.

Grasses

Needle and thread	(STC04)
Thurber's Needlegrass	(STTH2)
Bottlebrush squirreltail	(SIHY)
Sandberg's bluegrass	(POSE)
Nevada bluegrass	(PONE3)
Indian ricegrass	(ORHY)
Great Basin wildrye	(ELCI2)
Western wheatgrass	(AGSM)
Salt grass	(DISP)
Alkali sacaton	(SPAI)

Shrubs

Big sagebrush	(ARTR2)
Black sagebrush	(ARARN)
Low sagebrush	(ARAR8)
Shadscale	(ATCO)
Budsage	(ARSP)
White sage	(CELA)
Mormon tea	(EPHED)
Black greasewood	(SAVE4)
Douglas rabbitbrush	(CHVI8)
Spiny hopsage	(GRSP)

Forbs

Astragalus	(ASTRA)
Phlox	(PHLOX)
Scarlet globemallow	(SPCO)

2. The following list includes key species for wildlife in the Willow Ranch allotment.

Grasses All grasses listed in the previous section are used by mule deer in the green-up period; all may be used by nesting sage grouse in April-May. Thus they are considered key wildlife grasses.

<u>Shrubs</u>	Black sagebrush	(ARARN)
	Low sagebrush	(ARAR8)
	Budsage	(ARSP5)
	White sage	(CELA)
	Douglas rabbitbrush	(CHVI8)
	Big sagebrush	(ARTR2)

3. Riparian Areas
No riparian objectives were stated in the RPS.

IV. Management Evaluation

A. Purpose:
Determine whether or not existing uses are consistent with attainment of the Land Use Plan objectives and if they are not, to make the necessary adjustment so that our multiple uses will be consistent with the Land Use Plan.

B. Summary of Studies Data:

1. See appendix A₁ - A₂₀ for summary data in graph form.

2. Actual Use

a) Livestock AUMs:

(1) Daniel Russell - 5,370 AUMs Active preference. All other use was temporary-nonrenewable.

*	04/01/82 - 07/31/82	=	1,568
	09/10/82 - 01/31/83	=	<u>2,095</u>
		Total	3,595 AUMs

*	05/07/83 - 02/28/84	=	4,756 AUMs
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*	03/01/84 - 07/09/84	=	2,785
	11/01/84 - 12/31/84	=	<u>1,200</u>
		Total	3,985 AUMs

*	04/22/85 - 07/18/85	=	1,740
	08/01/85 - 12/30/85	=	<u>2,650</u>
		Total	4,390 AUMs

*	04/27/86 - 10/30/86	=	1,673
	11/15/86 - 01/31/87	=	<u>1,241</u>
		Total	2,914 AUMs
*	04/05/87 - 12/31/87	=	3,321 AUMs
**	04/16/88 - 12/31/88	=	4,188 AUMs
**	04/16/89 - 12/31/89	=	4,197 AUMs
***	04/05/90 - 10/30/90	=	137
**	04/15/90 - 12/31/90	=	<u>4,554</u>
		Total	4,691 AUMs
**	03/10/91 - 12/31/91	=	3,530 AUMs
**	04/16/92 - 02/28/93	=	2,872 AUMs

- * AUMs taken from Actual Use Reports.
- ** AUMs taken from Grazing Bills.
- *** AUMs were used by domestic horses. All use was Temporary non-renewable and north of fenced highway 50 outside the North Monitor Herd Management Area.

Total livestock use ranged from a low of 2,872 AUMs to a high of 4,756 AUMs; average use equalled 3,858 AUMs.

- b) Existing numbers of big game use at present is 128 AUMs (NDOW 1993).
- c) Existing numbers of wild horses at present is 96 AUMs.

3. Precipitation

- a) Precipitation data was collected at Austin and at the Diamond Valley weather station near Eureka, Nevada (see appendix A₁ - A₂₀ for graphs):

<u>STATION</u>	<u>AVG.</u>	<u>1980</u>	<u>1981</u>	<u>1982</u>	<u>1983</u>	<u>1984</u>	<u>1985</u>	<u>1986</u>
Austin		10.4	16.8	22.3	17.7	15.8	15.8	5.9
Diamond Valley		11.5*	5.93*	13.3	16.9	8.2	5.2	7.0

<u>STATION</u>	<u>AVG.</u>	<u>1987</u>	<u>1988</u>	<u>1989</u>	<u>1990</u>	<u>1991</u>	<u>1992</u>
Austin		18.9	15.7	10.6	*	14.0*	*
Diamond Valley		12.5	9.22	6.71	10.9	11.4	*

* = Incomplete data

4. Utilization (refer to appendix A₁ - A₂₀ for graphs)
 a) Key Areas (see map 5)
 There are 20 key areas located within the Willow Ranch Allotment. Utilization estimates and dates collected are tabulated below:

- (1) Key Area # 1 (native range east of Woods Seeding): Key Species: Indian ricegrass (ORHY), squirreltail (SIHY)

<u>Dates</u>	<u>Utilization Estimates</u>
03/03/82	38%
06/28/84	10%
09/05/90	62%
03/01/91	71%
12/05/91	25%
11/17/92	12%

- (2) Key Area # 2 (Paroni Spring): Key species: Indian ricegrass (ORHY), squirreltail (SIHY), needle and thread (STCO4)

<u>Dates</u>	<u>Utilization Estimates</u>
03/25/82	47%
09/06/90	64%
03/21/91	74%
12/05/91	29%
11/19/92	62%

- (3) Key Area # 3 (native range east of Paroni Spring): Key species Indian ricegrass (ORHY), needle and thread (STCO4), squirreltail (SIHY)

<u>Dates</u>	<u>Utilization Estimates</u>
03/25/82	30%
06/28/84	20%
09/06/90	64%
03/12/91	74%
12/05/91	60%
11/19/92	62%

- (4) Key Area # 4 (spray area): Key species: Indian ricegrass (ORHY), needle and thread (STCO4), squirreltail (SIHY)

<u>Dates</u>	<u>Utilization Estimates</u>
03/25/82	30%
03/22/84	64%
09/05/90	71%
03/21/91	36%
12/05/91	49%
10/08/92	38%

- (5) Key Area # 5 (Pedlar Creek): Key species: Indian ricegrass (ORHY), squirreltail (SIHY), needle and thread (STCO4)

<u>Dates</u>	<u>Utilization Estimates</u>
03/25/82	39%
07/06/83	20%
09/05/90	17%
03/21/91	54%
12/06/91	53%
10/08/92	30%

- (6) Key Area # 6 (west of Jackrabbit Spring): Key species: Indian ricegrass (ORHY), squirreltail (SIHY), needle and thread (STCO4)

<u>Dates</u>	<u>Utilization Estimates</u>
03/03/82	20%
07/06/83	0%
03/22/84	42%
09/05/90	7%
03/21/91	50%
12/05/91	54%
11/19/92	26%

- (7) Key Area # 7 (Grimes Seeding): Key species: crested wheatgrass (AGCR)

<u>Dates</u>	<u>Utilization Estimates</u>
03/03/82	90%
07/06/83	0%
03/21/84	51%
06/11/85	62%
07/01/85	82%
09/05/90	70%
03/21/91	68%
12/04/91	77%
11/19/91	82%

- (8) Key Area # 8 (Lincoln Seeding): Key
species: crested wheatgrass (AGCR)

<u>Dates</u>	<u>Utilization Estimates</u>
03/03/82	70%
07/06/83	10%
09/05/90	64%
03/21/91	88%
03/05/92	53%
12/16/92	43%

- (9) Key Area # 9 (Lincoln Seeding): Key
species: crested wheatgrass (AGCR),
Indian ricegrass (ORHY), white sage
(CELA)

<u>Dates</u>	<u>Utilization Estimates</u>
03/03/82	40%
07/05/83	46%
09/05/90	64%
03/21/91	88%
03/05/92	63%
12/16/92	59%

- (10) Key Area # 10 (Grimes Seeding south):
Key species: crested wheatgrass (AGCR)

<u>Dates</u>	<u>Utilization Estimates</u>
03/03/82	17%
06/18/82	95%
07/06/83	0%
03/21/84	51%
06/11/85	56%
07/01/85	78%
09/05/90	70%
03/21/91	68%
12/04/91	59%
11/19/92	86%

- (11) Key Area # 11 (Sprayed area): Key
species: Indian ricegrass (ORHY),
squirreltail (SIHY), needle and thread
(STCO4)

<u>Dates</u>	<u>Utilization Estimates</u>
03/25/82	48%
06/28/84	10%
09/05/90	62%
03/21/91	55%
12/05/91	25%
10/08/92	49%

- (12) Key Area # 12 (Warm Springs): Key species: Indian ricegrass (ORHY), squirreltail (SIHY)

<u>Dates</u>	<u>Utilization Estimates</u>
09/05/90	30%
03/26/91	2%
12/18/91	41%
12/17/92	24%

- (13) Key Area # 13 (Woods Seeding): Key species: crested wheatgrass (AGCR)

<u>Dates</u>	<u>Utilization Estimates</u>
05/30/84	58%
09/06/90	70%
03/21/91	86%
12/18/91	87%
12/17/92	37%

- (14) Key Area # 14 (Woods Seeding): Key species: crested wheatgrass (AGCR)

<u>Dates</u>	<u>Utilization Estimates</u>
03/02/82	79%
05/16/85	70%
09/06/90	70%
03/21/91	86%
12/18/91	87%
12/17/92	29%

- (15) Key Area # 15 (Bean Flat): Key species: alkali sacaton (SPAI), saltgrass (DISP), basin wildrye (ELCI2), wiregrass (JUNCU), Sandberg's bluegrass (POSE)

<u>Dates</u>	<u>Utilization Estimates</u>
09/01/82	30%
10/20/82	68%
09/09/83	56%
12/18/91	57%
12/17/92	14%

- (16) Key Area # 16 (North Hillside Pasture):
Key species: Indian ricegrass (ORHY),
squirreltail (SIHY), needle and thread
(STCO4)

<u>Dates</u>	<u>Utilization Estimates</u>
06/28/84	10%
03/26/91	21%
12/18/91	16%
12/17/92	28%

- (17) Key Area # 17 (Bean Flat south): Key
species: basin wildrye (ELCI2), squirrel
tail (SIHY), alkali sacaton (SPAI) black
greasewood (SAVE4), spiny horsebrush
(TESP2)

<u>Dates</u>	<u>Utilization Estimates</u>
09/09/83	52%
12/18/91	38%
12/17/92	25%

- (18) Key Area # 18 (Twin Springs Pasture):
Key species: Indian ricegrass (ORHY),
white sage (CELA), squirreltail (SIHY),
budsage (ARSP5), viscid rabbitbrush
(CHVI4)

<u>Dates</u>	<u>Utilization Estimates</u>
03/22/84	47%
03/21/91	84%
12/05/91	58%
11/19/92	74%

- (19) Key Area # 19 (west of Lincoln Seeding):
Key species: Indian ricegrass (ORHY),
squirrel tail (SIHY), viscid rabbitbrush
(CHVI4), white sage (CELA), needle and
thread (STCO4)

<u>Dates</u>	<u>Utilization Estimates</u>
03/03/82	62%
07/06/83	67%
05/16/85	34%
09/06/90	40%
03/21/91	58%
12/05/91	58%
12/16/92	27%

(20) Key Area # 20 (Grimes Pasture): Key species: Indian ricegrass (ORHY), squirrel tail (SIHY), viscid rabbitbrush (CHVI4), needle and thread (STCO4)

<u>Dates</u>	<u>Utilization Estimates</u>
03/03/82	64%
07/06/83	28%
05/15/84	32%
05/17/85	37%
09/06/90	40%
03/21/91	58%
12/05/91	47%
12/16/92	35%

b) Mule deer and antelope yearlong range. Key species utilization transects.

Willow Ranch Allotment - 10/8/92
 Location: T 19N., R 50E., sec. 19, 36

Percent Utilization			

Transect	1	2	AVG
Species			
ARARN	32	50	41
ARSP5	--	--	
ATCO	36	--	36
CELA*	74	70	72
SIHY	46	--	46
ORHY+	41	61	51
CHVI8	--	34	34
GRSP	--	34	34

* Key browse
 + Key grasses

Location: T 18N., R 49E., Secs. 11NE, 2SW, 3SE, 4
 - stops 3-7

Percent Utilization

Transect Species	1	2	3	4	5	AVG
CHVI8	51	48	39	46	30	42.8
STCO4	83	29	33		16	40.3
SIHY	50	13				31.5
ORHY+	70	33	28	30	13	34.8
ARARN*		54		34	28	38.7
ARTR2			17			17.0

* Key browse
 + Key grasses

Location: T 19N., R 49E., Secs. 33SE, 34S -
 stops 8 & 9

Percent Utilization

Transect Species	1	2	AVG
CHVI8	38	12	25.0
ORHY+	29	43	36.0
STCO4	26		26.0
ARARN*	16	49	32.5

* Key browse
 + Key grass

c) Use Pattern Mapping (see maps 6_A - 6_C):

Four use pattern maps were completed for the Willow Ranch Allotment. They were compiled September 1990, March 1991, for the 1990 grazing year, December 1991 for the 1991 grazing year, and December 1992 for the 1992 grazing year. The September 1990, and March 1991 maps were combined into one map because they both represent the 1990 grazing year.

5. Trend
Two Parker three step transects and one Deming two phase condition and trend method write-ups were made within the allotment during 1964. These condition and trend studies indicated that the entire allotment was in fair condition with a static trend. Approximately six range photo plots were set up in the spring of 1966. The data from these plots are inconclusive. No further trend data has been collected to date.
6. Range Survey Data
Refer to the 1964 range survey for Roberts Creek unit.
7. Ecological Status
No Ecological Site Inventory data has been gathered at this time.
8. Wildlife Habitat
An antelope winter range long-term condition and trend study was set up in the allotment in 1983. The rating was in fair condition (42) at that time and in fair condition in 1987 (40). Since 1987, the area has not been considered as critical winter range for antelope, but as yearlong range (NDOW 1993). The study site will be read and evaluated for the Dry Creek Allotment Evaluation. White sage occurring in the allotment is considered key habitat for pronghorn antelope. A critical fawning cover study was set up on 6/4/93. Percent composition of vegetation, vertical cover and horizontal cover was calculated and rated at poor condition (20) for the allotment (POOR = 5-30 based on BLM 6630 Manual).

Sage grouse strutting and nesting complexes are recorded at the following locations: (see Map 2)

<u>Township</u>	<u>Range</u>	<u>Section</u>	<u>Area</u>
18 N.	48 E.	2	Jackrabbit Pasture
18 N.	48 E.	5	Grimes Pasture
18 N.	48 E.	8	Grimes Seeding
19 N.	48 E.	36	Jackrabbit Pasture
19 N.	49 E.	20,21,28,29	Hillside Pasture

Nesting cover analyses have not been made on these grounds at present. However, any measures taken to limit spring grazing in the strutting-nesting complexes will benefit the present population.

Brood rearing areas do not have any formal studies at present, but if the range condition objectives in the Rangeland Program Summary are met, the brood rearing potential of the allotment will be measurably increased.

A variety of raptors inhabit the allotment. Red-tailed hawks and American rough-legged hawks are seasonal residents. A large population of rodent and avian prey must be present to maintain large and varied raptor populations.

9. Riparian Habitat
Due to the lack of water there is no opportunity for riparian management within the Willow Ranch Allotment.
10. Wild Horse and Burro Habitat
Wild horse habitat ratings have not been established for the HMA.

V. Conclusions

The following objectives have or have not been met.
Land Use Plan/Rangeland Program Summary (RPS)

A. Vegetation and Ecological Condition:

1. This objective has been partially met for the native vegetation; overall utilization calculated from use pattern maps met RPS objectives in 1991 and 1992, but exceeded RPS objectives in 1990.

<u>Grazing Year</u>	<u>Native Pastures Utilization levels</u>	<u>Acres</u>
1992	Heavy/Severe Use	6,451
	Moderate Use	19,867
	Light Use	30,280
1991	Heavy/Severe Use	8,857
	Moderate Use	22,526
	Light Use	25,215
1990	Heavy/Severe Use	26,754
	Moderate Use	17,741
	Light Use	12,103

2. This objective has been partially met for the seedings; overall utilization calculated from use pattern maps met RPS objectives in 1991 and 1992 but exceeded RPS objectives in 1990 (see appendix B). Utilization readings in key areas have met RPS objectives some years, however some utilization readings have exceeded the RPS objectives.

<u>Grazing Year</u>	<u>Seedings Utilization Levels</u>	<u>Acres</u>
1992	Heavy/Severe Use	3,020
	Moderate Use	1,510
	Light Use	2,382
1991	Heavy/Severe Use	4,952
	Moderate Use	1,549
	Light Use	411
1990	Heavy/Severe Use	6,912
	Moderate Use	0
	Light Use	0

B. Livestock Use:

- 1,2. Since average livestock use during the evaluation period was 3,858 AUMs, these objectives were met.

C. Wild Horse Use:

1. Since vegetative objective (1) (not to exceed utilization levels of native species by 50% at seed dissemination) has been partially met, the wild horse objective to provide 300 AUMs of forage [for wild horses] has been partially reached.
2. This objective has been met. While there is a fenceline which roughly follows the northern boundary of the HMA, there are no fence restrictions through the HMA or between the southern HMA boundary and the adjoining Kelly Creek Forest Service Territory.
3. This objective has been met. Wild horses have access to perennial springs in the HMA and adjoining Forest Service Territory.

D. Wildlife Use: (RPS, 1988)

1. In the short term, manage at existing big game use at 8 AUMs, in conformance with other objectives of the Resource Management Plan (RMP). This objective has been met.

2. In the long term, provide habitat to support 159 AUMs of big game use. Pronghorn antelope numbers are low at the present time with less than 50 animals or about 120 AUMs (NDOW 1993). The total number of AUMs for big game is 128 AUMs, therefore, this objective has not been met. Improving the area to a good habitat condition (61-100) is important to antelope due to the critical fawning area. In fact, the entire allotment should be maintained in a good habitat condition for antelope and other wildlife throughout the year.
3. Manage rangeland habitat to maintain or enhance vegetative conditions in sagegrouse strutting and nesting areas, in conformance with other objectives of the RMP. Sufficient data is not available to indicate sage grouse strutting and nesting area enhancement. Therefore, it cannot be determined whether this objective has been met or not. Further studies are required.

E. Threatened and Endangered Species:

1. Improve and maintain habitat for state listed sensitive species and federally listed threatened or endangered species. Sufficient data is not available to indicate habitat enhancement for T&E species. Therefore, it cannot be determined whether this objective has been met or not. Further studies and surveys are required.

VI. Technical Recommendations

Range:

Over-utilization of key forage species in the Willow Ranch Allotment is a serious range management problem. Although some recent changes in livestock use has helped to alleviate the problem of wide-spread severe overuse, there still exists many acres that show over-utilization.

In order to achieve the management objectives specified in the RPS, utilization levels must be reduced and excessive grazing of key species must be avoided. Keeping utilization at or below recommended use levels will allow the key species to complete their growth cycles, become more vigorous and re-establish in disturbed areas.

The heaviest use levels observed were in 1990. This is also the same year the permittee used the most AUMs. As the permittee reduced livestock use in 1991 and 1992, there was a noticeable decrease in over utilization of the key species. The precipitation levels were constant during these years as well.

A. Adjusting Cattle, Wild horse and Wildlife Use

1. Changing current grazing management practices so they are compatible with specific key area management objectives and those identified in the RMP. In order to reduce the utilization on the key species, the following options were derived from the 1990, 1991 and 1992 use data. Livestock reductions were calculated using the following relationship:

$$\frac{\text{Actual Use (AUMS)}}{\text{Actual Utilization}} = \frac{\text{Desired Use (AUMS)}}{\text{Desired Utilization}}$$

Reductions for livestock will be made from active preference.

- a) Determination of adjustments based on weighted average percent utilization calculations.
 - (1) Average actual and estimated use 1990, 1991 and 1992.

Permittee	=	3,697 AUMs
Horses	=	96 AUMs
Wildlife	=	<u>128 AUMs</u>
Total		3,921 AUMs

- (2) Utilization
The adjusted total weighted averages by year (see appendix C for calculations).

1990	80%	weighted average seedings	=	2,134
1990	68%	weighted average native	=	2,185
1991	66%	weighted average seedings	=	1,947
1991	56%	weighted average native	=	2,055
1992	70%	weighted average seedings	=	1,493
1992	53%	weighted average native	=	1,815

(3) Average Desired Use
 Seedlings = 1,858 AUMs
 Native = 2,018 AUMs
 Total = 3,876 AUMs

(4) Active Preference (P); Average Actual and Estimated Use 1982-1992 (H); Long-Term RPS Objective. (WL).

Permittee = 5,370 AUMs
 Horses = 96 AUMs
 Wildlife = 159 AUMs
 AUMs Total Demand = 5,625 AUMs

(5) Total demand for the allotment = 5,625
 Desired use for the allotment = 3,876
 Reduction needed = 1,749

(6) Prorated adjustments

Cattle: 1,749 X 100% = 1,749 AUM reduc.
 Horses: 1,749 X 0% = 0 AUM reduction
 Wildlife: 1,749 X 0% = 0 AUM reduction

The following tabulations reflect AUM changes that will occur based upon the above reductions:

<u>Permittee</u>	<u>Total Pref.</u>	<u>Original Susp.</u>	<u>Active Pref.</u>	<u>New Susp.</u>	<u>New Act. Pref.</u>
Dan Russell	5,370	0	5,370	1,749	3,621

	<u>RMP Allocation</u>	<u>Avg. Act.</u>	<u>Proposed Reduction</u>	<u>New AML</u>
Wild Horses	300	96	0	96

	<u>RMP Allocation</u>	<u>Avg. Act.</u>	<u>Proposed Reduction</u>
Wildlife	159	128	0

The wild horses in this allotment are restricted to the jackrabbit pasture. The jackrabbit pasture has generally received moderate use during the evaluation period. Because wild horses are not a problem, the wild horses in the Willow Ranch Allotment will not receive an AUM reduction at this time.

Wildlife have been allocated 159 AUMs in the RPS but are currently using 128 AUMs. Due to the small number of game species in the Willow Ranch Allotment there will be no AUM reduction for wildlife at this time.

B. Revise and update existing Allotment Management Plan (AMP):

1. The season of use should be changed from April 16 to May 01 to further maintain and enhance sage grouse strutting, nesting, and brood rearing areas.
2. The rest rotation grazing scheme in appendix D should be followed. Some grazing dates and seasons of use may need to be adjusted in the future to insure proper stocking and utilization rates for each pasture.

C. Vegetation Manipulation:

1. Use controlled burning, mechanical control and or chemical spraying of stagnant sagebrush and pinyon/juniper stands to reestablish native grass species.
2. Evaluate all existing wells to determine where repairs are required and which wells are dry. This needs to be done in conjunction with wild horses and wildlife to determine local watering needs.
3. Determine whether the existing seedings or sprays are of value to respray or to manage them as they are now.

D. Evaluate Existing and Future Water Sources:

1. Develop water in pastures lacking reliable water in conjunction with the wild horse and wildlife specialists.

E. Long Term Objectives for Trend:

1. Collect Ecological Site Inventory (ESI) on key areas.
2. Collect trend and frequency data on key areas to determine current and future trends.
3. Continue monitoring studies to determine if RPS objectives are being met or not.

F. Collect Actual Use By Pasture:

1. Require the permittee to turn in actual use reports on a pasture by pasture basis.

Wild Horses:

- A. Retain the 96 AUMs currently being utilized by wild horses in this allotment, and set the short term AML for this HMA at 96 AUMs.
- B. Maintain communications with the Austin Ranger District exchanging wild horse monitoring data and coordinating aerial census in order to encourage that the HMA and adjoining Territory are treated as one management unit. Coordinate with the Forest Service to assure that they annually allot funding to be used for aerial distribution and census monitoring studies.
- C. Work with the Austin Ranger District in planning a joint long term census/distribution flight schedule for the North Monitor HMA and adjoining Kelly Creek Territory.
- D. Initiate a biennial census schedule for the HMA and adjoining Territory.
- E. Coordinate with the Austin Ranger District in completion of a joint Herd Management Area Plan (HMAP) which addresses wild horse management actions in the North Monitor HMA and Kelly Creek Territory.
- F. Revisit the existing MOU between the Battle Mountain District and the Austin Ranger District. Specify that the Battle Mountain District will take the lead on aerial monitoring and census work within the HMA and adjoining territory. The Austin Ranger District would remain accountable for all ground monitoring and management recommendations/decisions regarding the Kelly Creek territory.

Wildlife:

- A. The following recommendation is to update the RMP, and AMP for the Willow Ranch Allotment:
 1. Establish a wildlife objective to read as follows:
Utilization of key browse not to exceed 50% in terrestrial big game habitat areas.

2. Establish a wildlife objective to read as follows: Improve the Twin Springs pasture, Jackrabbit pasture and south Hillside pasture to a good habitat condition for all big game areas as measured by BLM 6630 Manual long term condition studies. Achieving this objective will protect critical fawning areas. Key areas corresponding to critical antelope fawning areas for 1992 are shown in appendix E).
 3. Recommend the addition of vegetative conditions to the sage grouse strutting, nesting and brood rearing areas to the wildlife objectives in the RPS.
- B. It is recommended that grazing within a 2-mile radius of major sage grouse strutting ground complexes (See map 2) be prohibited from March 1 to June 1, every year, to increase sagebrush canopy cover (20 to 30%), understory cover, and forb volume and variety. It is further recommended that pastures containing a strutting-nesting area be given a year's rest, one out of every three years, to further rebuild the vegetative condition to one suitable for sage grouse production.

Excluded from the recommendation would be artificial seeding areas. Sage grouse are observed strutting in some of these seedings. However, these seedings are very poor nesting habitat. By allowing the reestablishment of sagebrush on sage grouse range, except for upland meadows will provide suitable habitat. For these reasons, the sagebrush areas adjacent to the strutting ground should be protected, when the ground is located within a seeding, but not the ground itself.

Threatened and Endangered Species:

- A. The candidate species ferruginous hawk hunts and nests within the allotment. At present the species seems to be doing fairly well; frequent observations are reported. It is recommended that raptor nest sites be monitored and trees within a 2-mile radius of nesting areas be excluded from any cutting or burning projects. Measures which will increase the understory cover in the sage grouse production areas will also result in higher rodent populations, thus bettering ferruginous hawk habitat. Further study of the species is required.

- B. Loggerhead shrikes hunt and nest throughout the sagebrush areas of the allotment; conditions at present seem to favor the species. Nothing proposed in the Multiple Use Decision will affect the species adversely. Further study of the species is recommended.
- C. Pygmy rabbits may inhabit the lower reaches of the sagebrush community, and are likely to be found in the taller sage stands. All that can be recommended at this time are continued inventory efforts and further study of the species should it be located in the allotment.

VII. Consultation

- A. Beetch, Neal
- Shoshone/Eureka Resource Area Range Conservationist
- B. Beetch, Sarah
- Shoshone/Eureka Resource Area Range Conservationist
- C. Bond, Tim
- U.S. Forest Service Austin Ranger District Range Conservationist
- D. Dobrich, Valerie
- Shoshone/Eureka Resource Area Wild Horse and Burro Specialist
- E. Graham, Kathy
- Shoshone/Eureka Resource Area Wildlife Biologist
- F. Hamlin, Robin
- U.S Fish and Wildlife Service
- G. Heisinger, Jennifer
- U.S. Forest Service Austin Ranger District Range Conservationist
- H. Munson, Lloyd
- Shoshone/Eureka Resource Area Range Technician
- I. Oyler, Rick
- Shoshone/Eureka Resource Area Range Conservationist
(Lead Preparer)
- J. Podborny, Mike
- Nevada Department of Wildlife
- K. Sherwood, Bob
- Shoshone/Eureka Resource Area Wildlife Biologist
- L. Thompson, Floyd
- Shoshone/Eureka Resource Area Supervisor Range Conservationist
- M. Ward, Dave
- Fish Creek Ranch Manager
- N. Weeks, Jeff
- Battle Mountain District Range Specialist
- O. Winnepenninx, John
- Battle Mountain District Wild Horse and Burro Specialist.

UNITED STATES
DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
BUREAU OF LAND MANAGEMENT

ANNEX A-1

District

Battle Mountain

Planning Area

Shoshone/Eureka

Date

ALLOTMENT EVALUATION SUMMARY

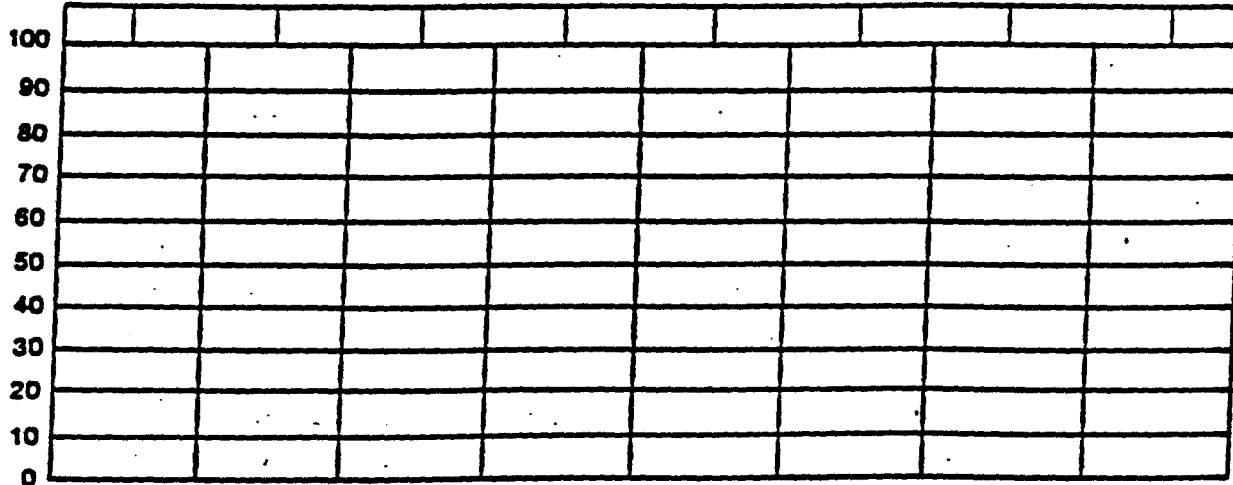
Allotment

Willow Ranch

Key Management Area

Key Area # 1

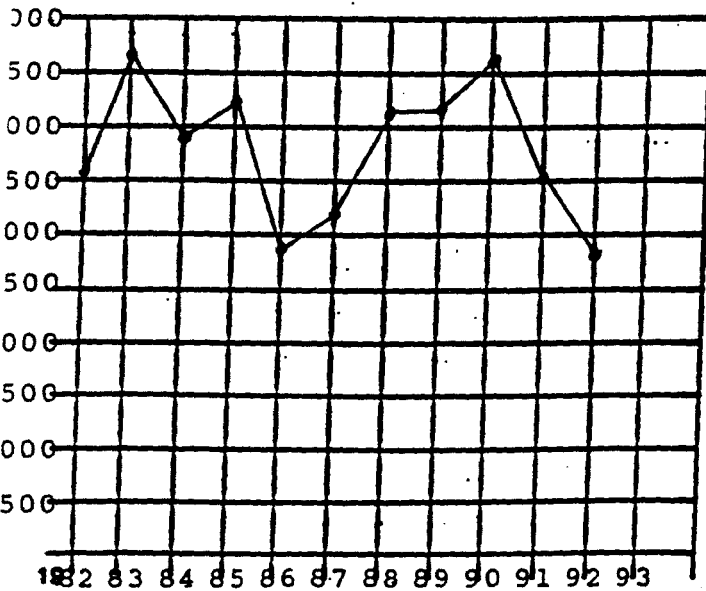
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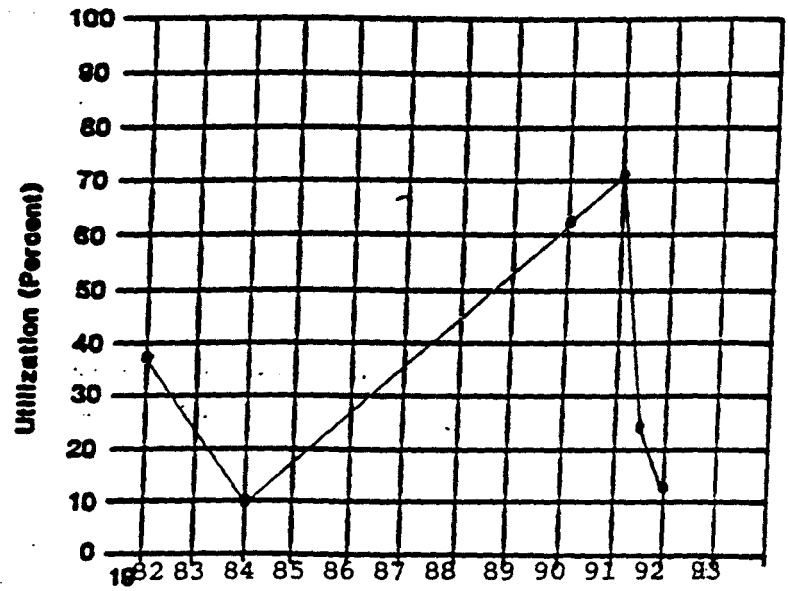
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Key Species-Cod

ORHY

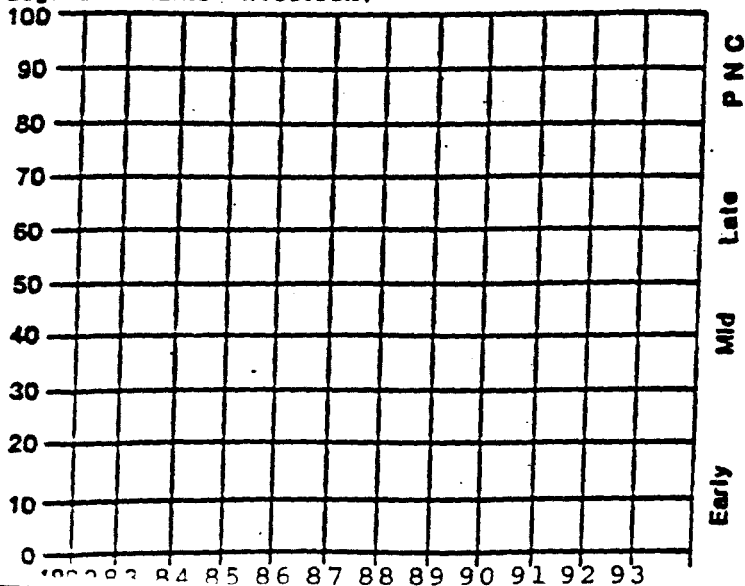
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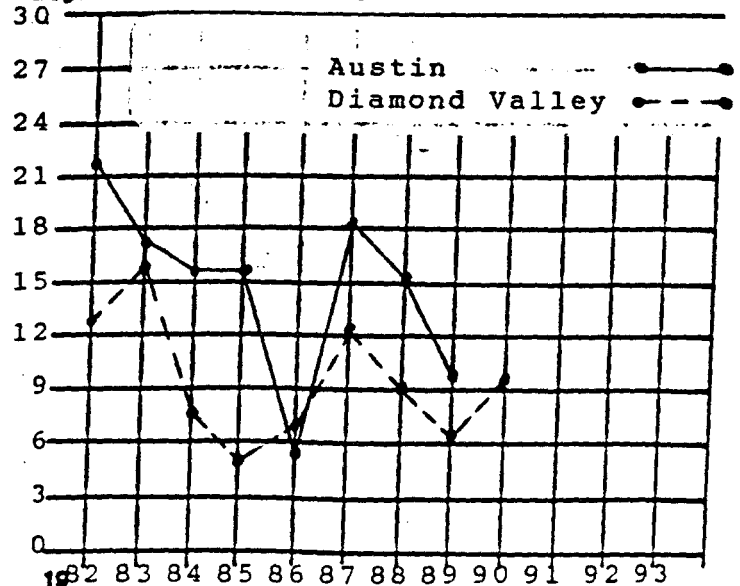
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Legend—Actual—Allowable



Early Mid Late P N C



Legend—Normal

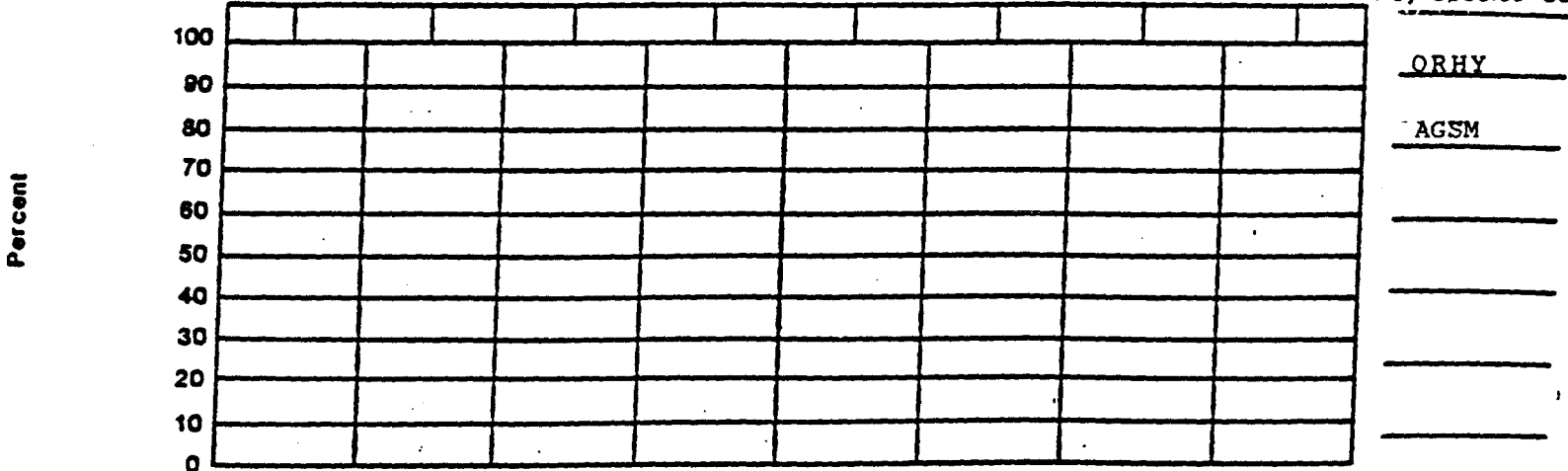
UNITED STATES
DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
BUREAU OF LAND MANAGEMENT

District Battle Mountain	
Planning Area Shoshone/Eureka	Date

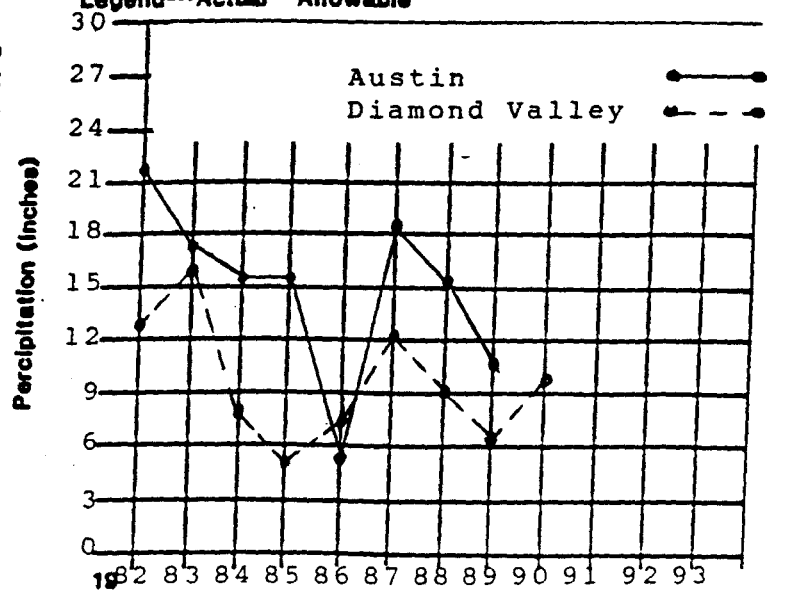
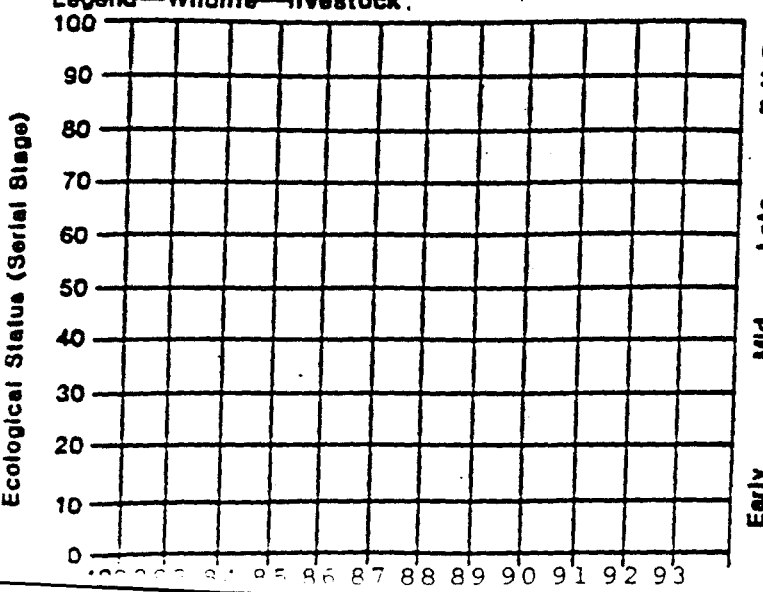
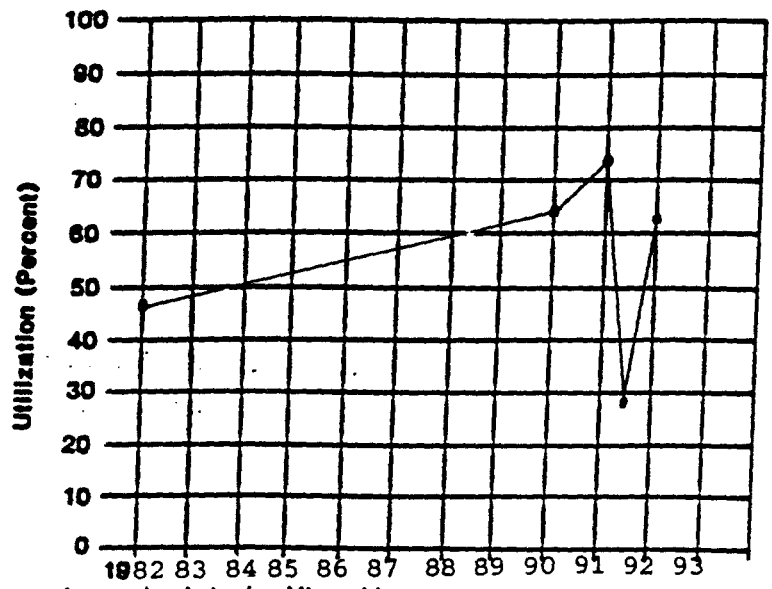
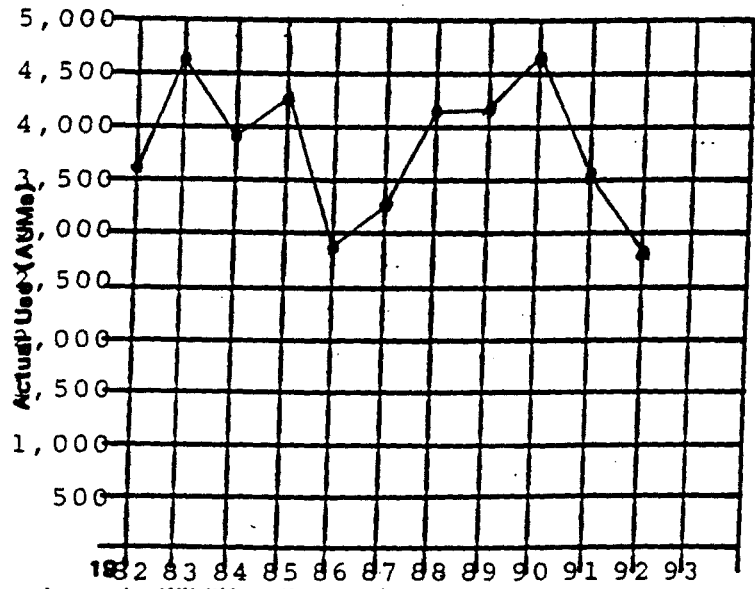
ALLOTMENT EVALUATION SUMMARY

Allotment Willow Ranch	Key Management Area Key Area # 2
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Trend Index (Frequency)
Date



- Code
Key Species-Co
- ORHY
 - AGSM
 -
 -
 -
 -



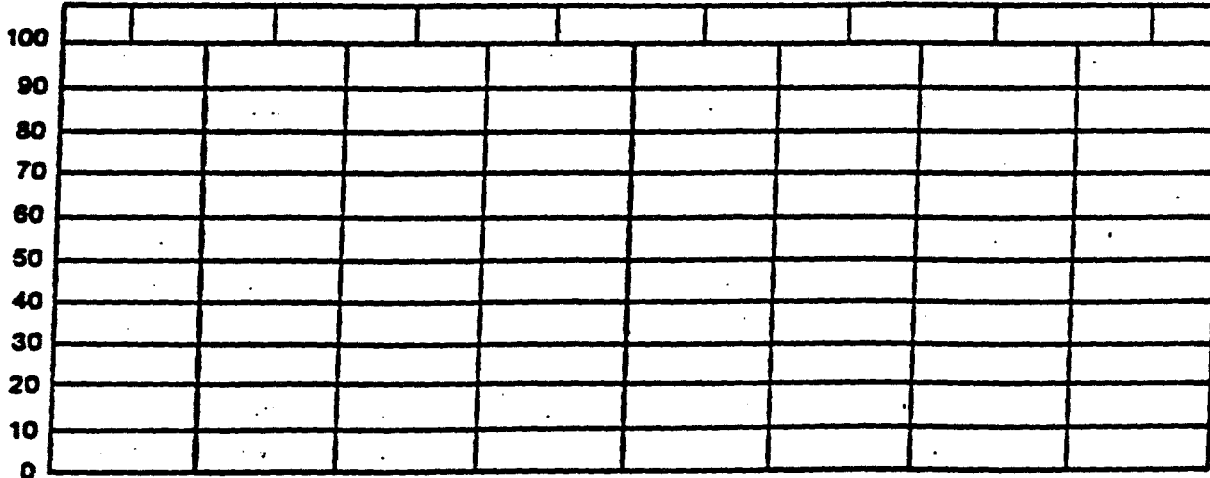
UNITED STATES
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ALLOTMENT EVALUATION SUMMARY

District Battle Mountain	
Planning Area Shoshone/Eureka	Date

Allotment Willow Ranch	Key Management Area Key Area # 3
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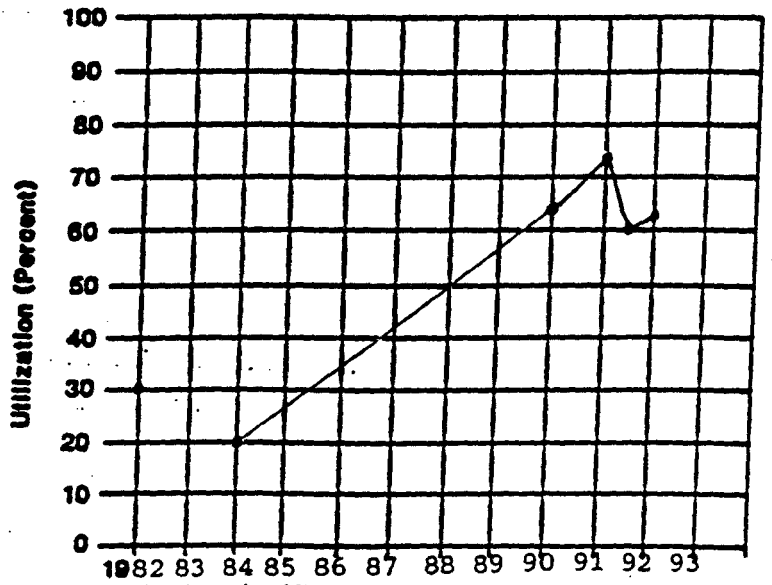
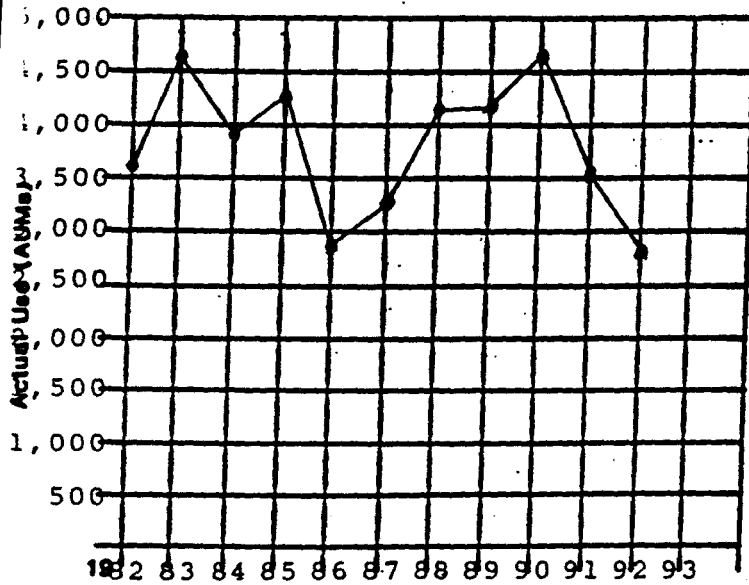
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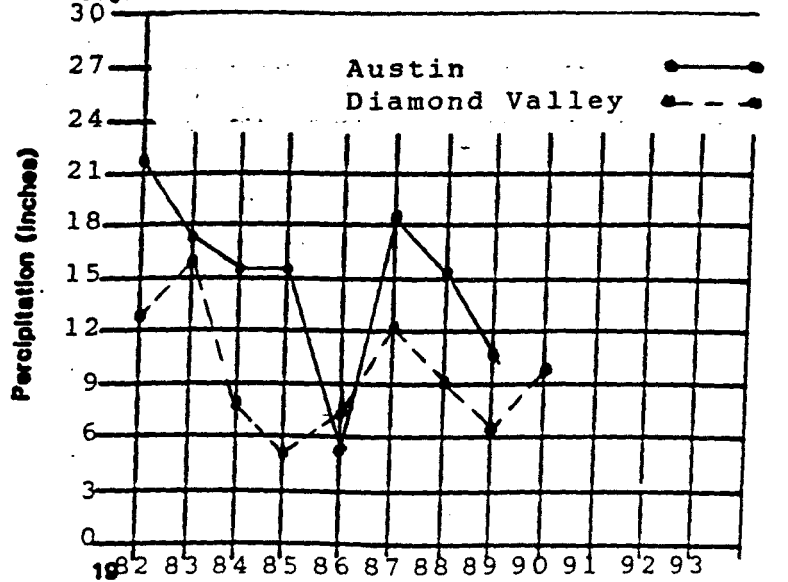
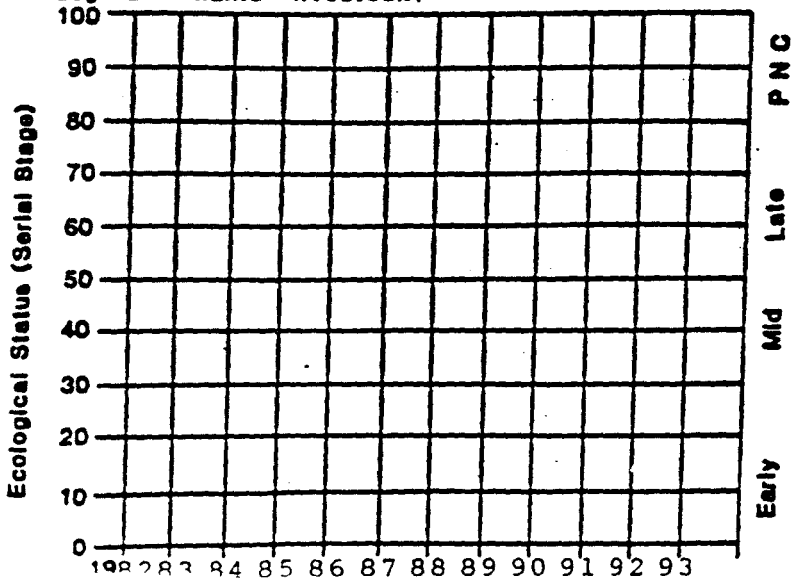
ORHY

SIHY



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Legend—Actual—Allowable



Legend—Actual—Normal

UNITED STATES
DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
BUREAU OF LAND MANAGEMENT

ALLOTMENT EVALUATION SUMMARY

District

Battle Mountain

Planning Area

Shoshone/Eureka

Date

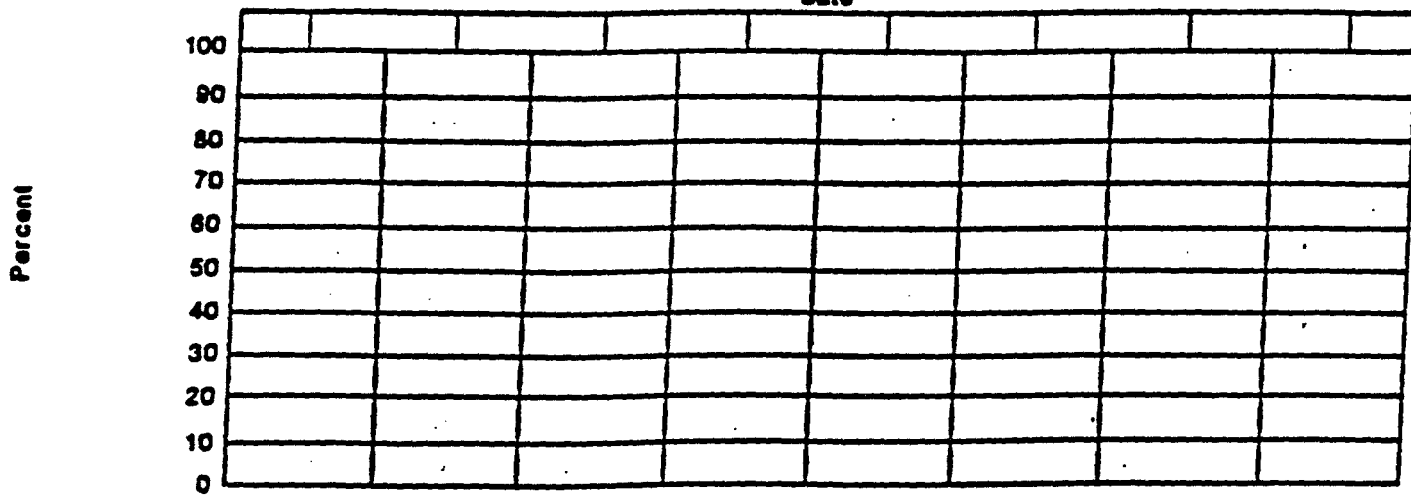
Allotment

Willow Ranch

Key Management Area

Key Area # 4

Trend Index (Frequency)
Date



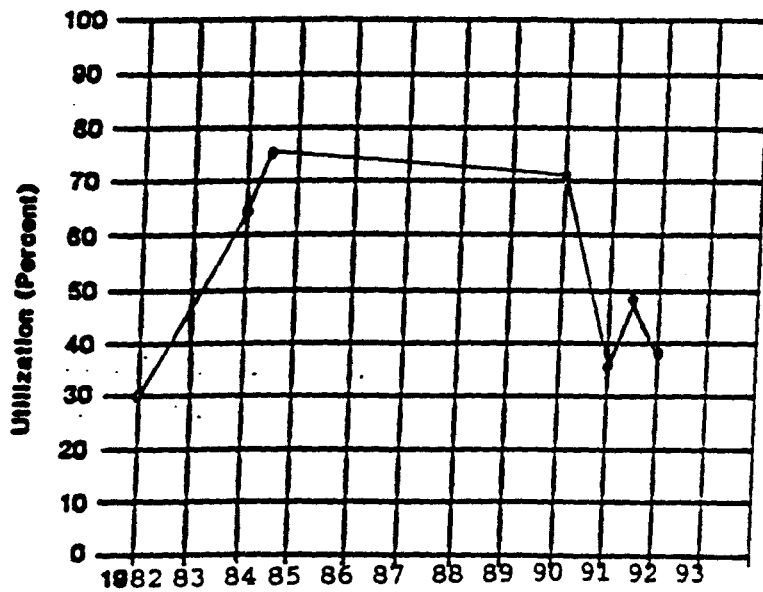
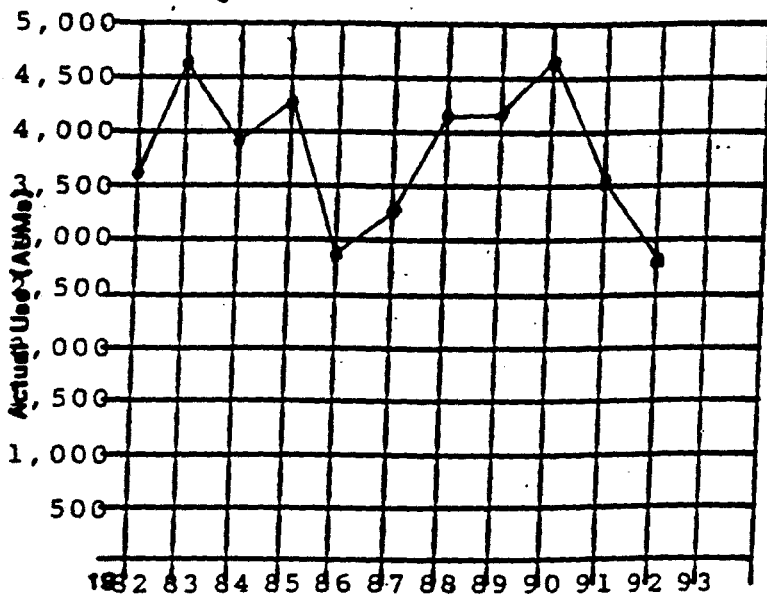
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AGSM

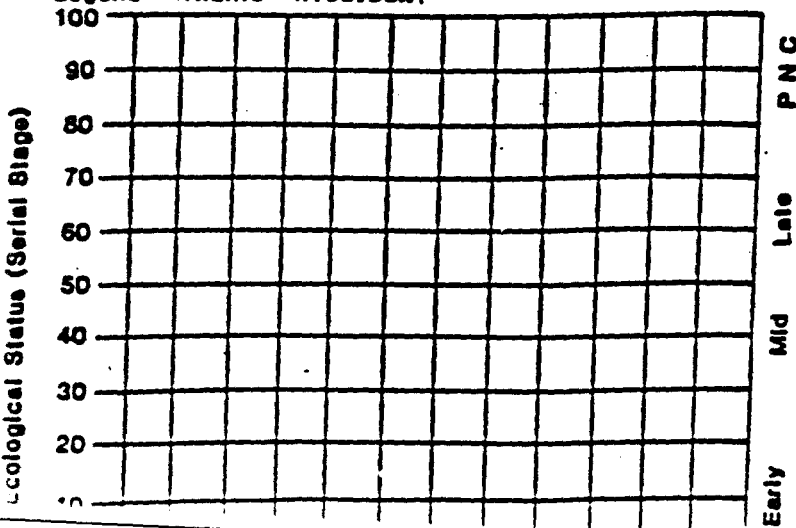
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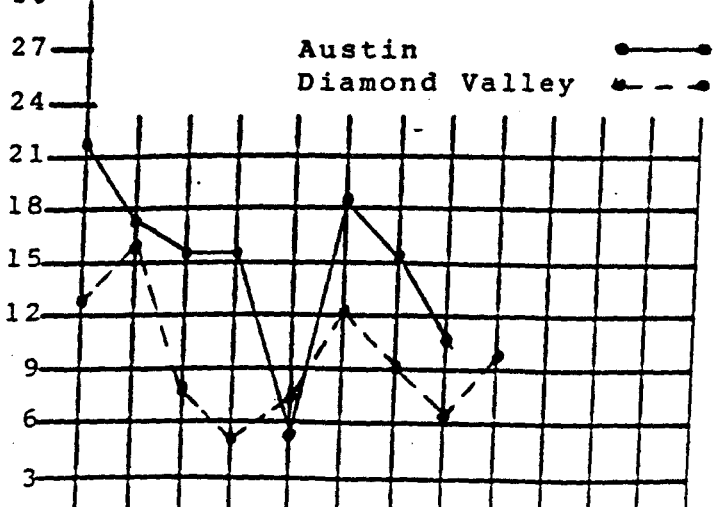


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Legend—Actual—Allowable



Early Mid Late P N C



UNITED STATES
DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
BUREAU OF LAND MANAGEMENT

District

Battle Mountain

Planning Area

Shoshone/Eureka

Date

ALLOTMENT EVALUATION SUMMARY

Allotment

Willow Ranch

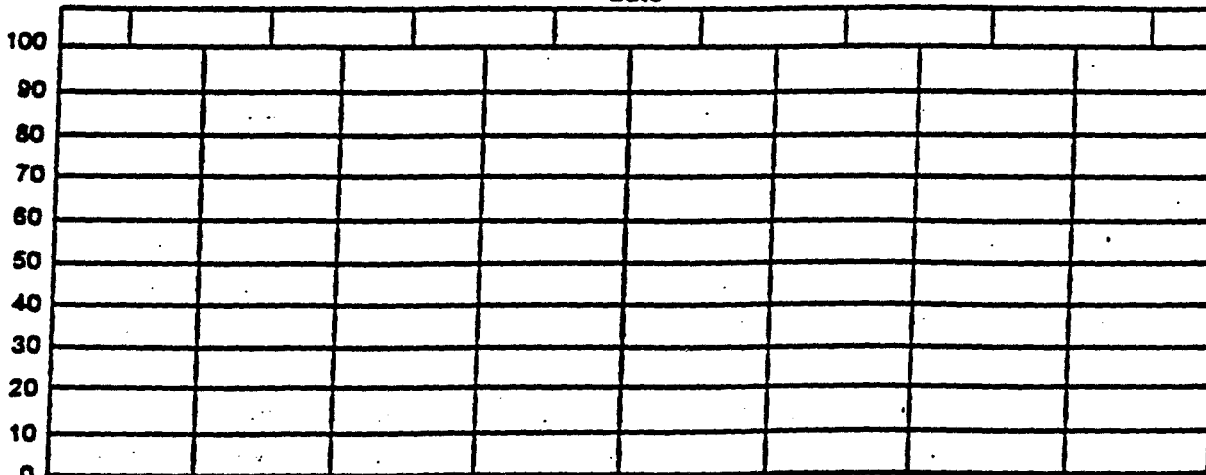
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Key Area # 5

Trend Index (Frequency)

Date

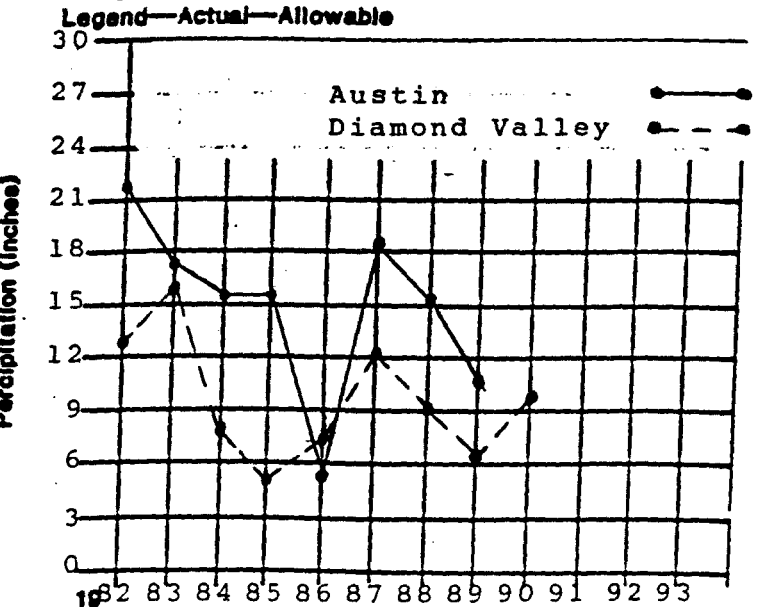
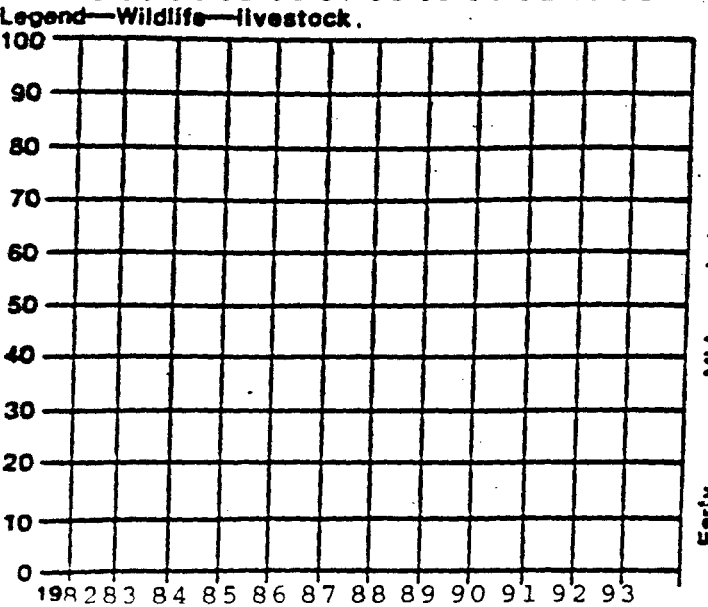
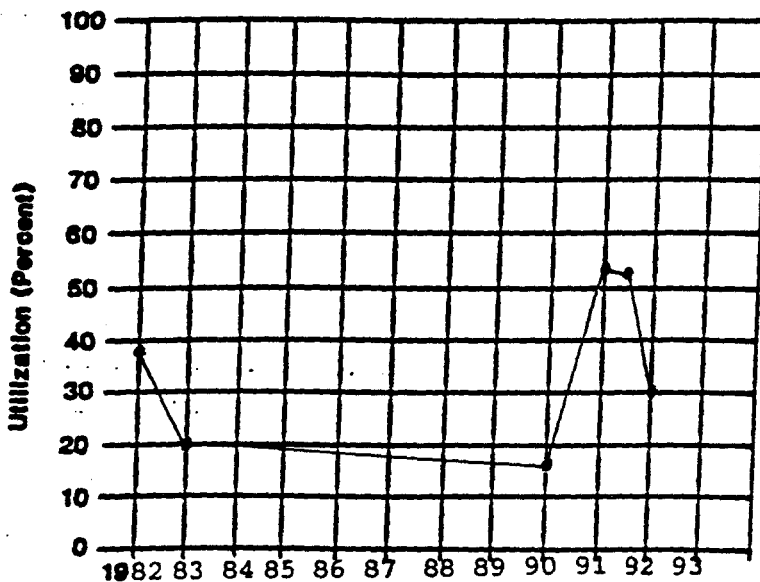
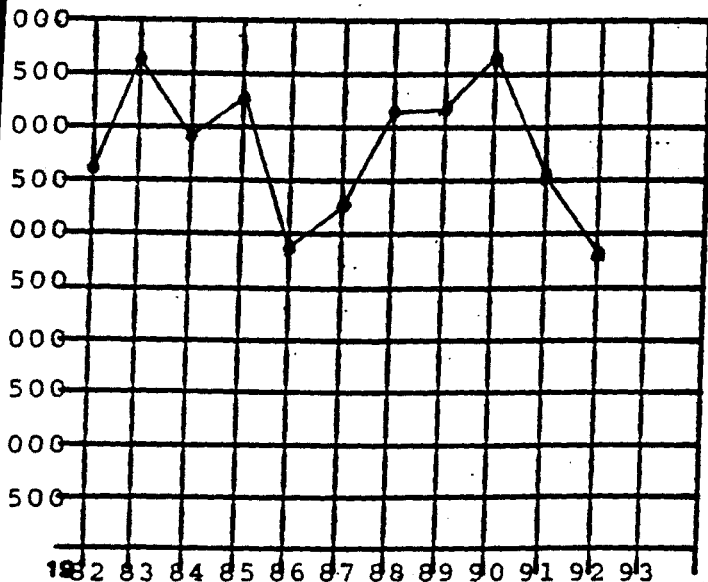
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Key Species-Color



ORHY

SIHY

STCO4



Early Mid Late PNC

Legend—Wildlife—livestock.

Legend—Actual—Allowable

Austin
Diamond Valley

Precipitation (inches)

Legend—Actual—Normal

UNITED STATES
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APPENDIX A-7

ALLOTMENT EVALUATION SUMMARY

District

Battle Mountain

Planning Area

Shoshone/Eureka

Date

Allotment

Willow Ranch

Key Management Area

Key Area # 7

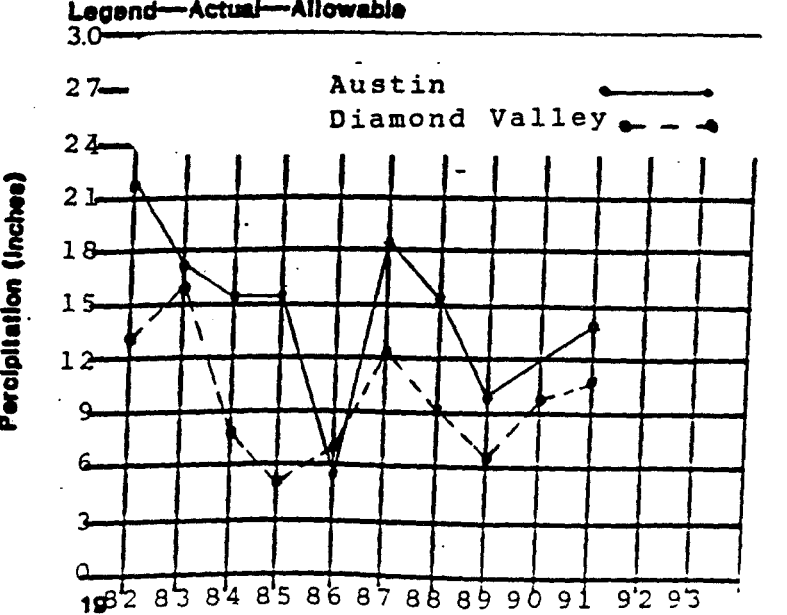
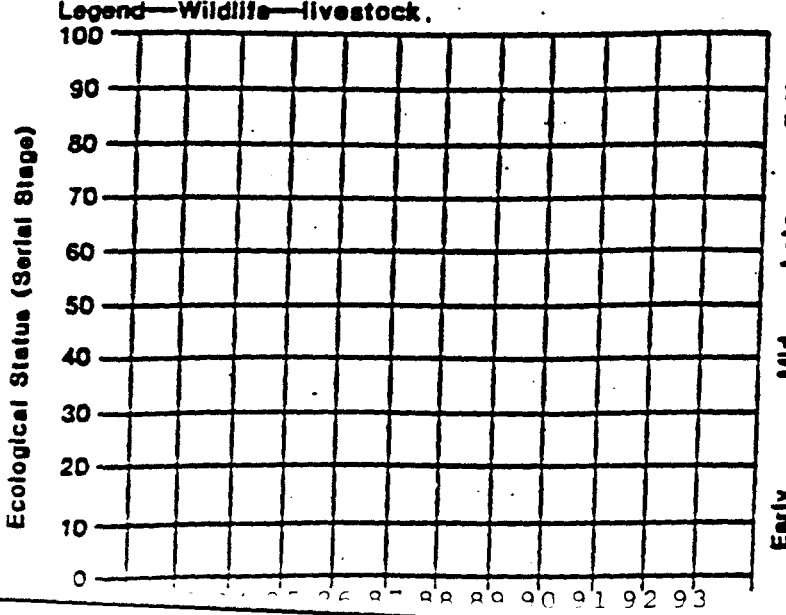
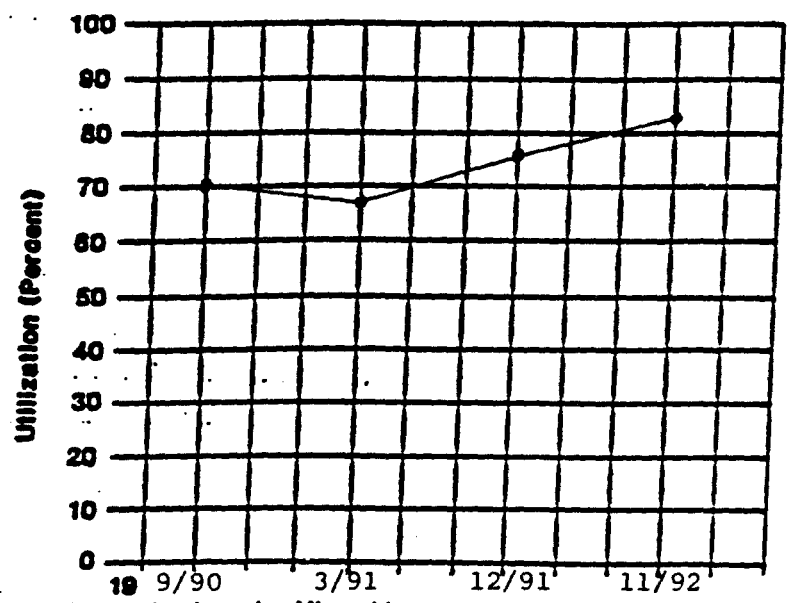
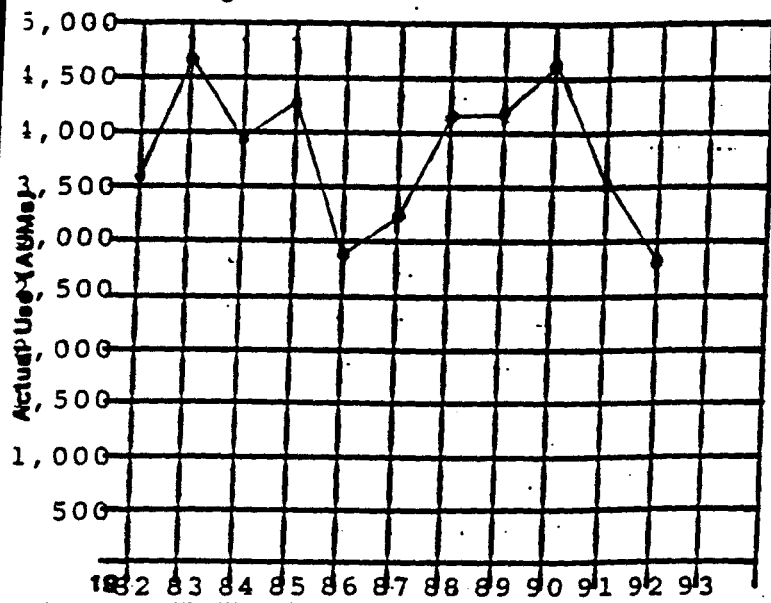
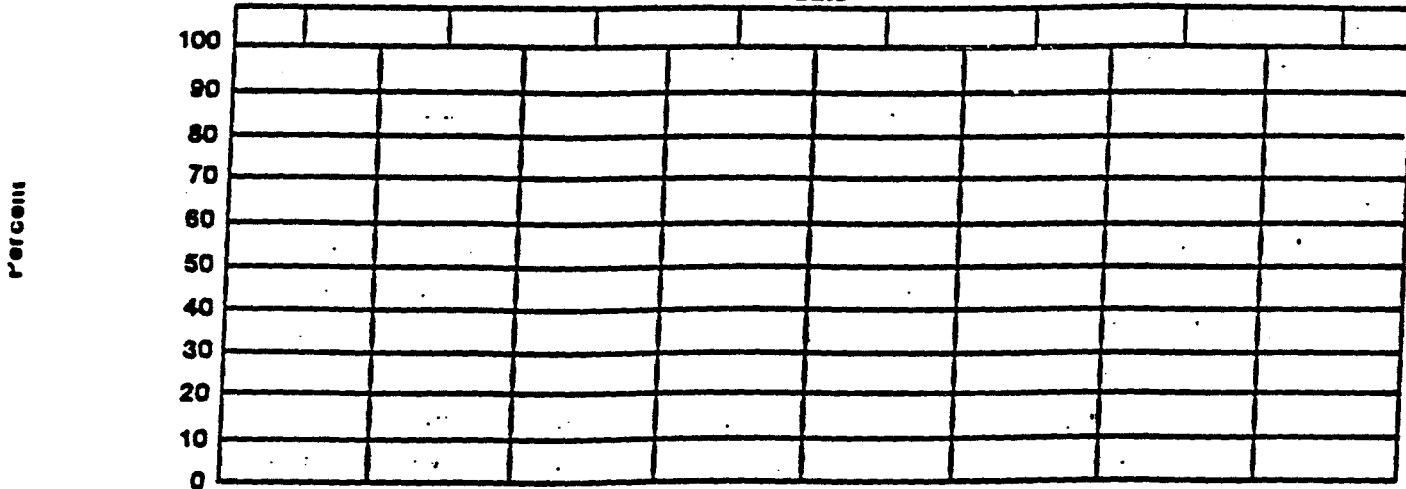
Trend Index (Frequency)

Date

Code

Key Species

AGCR



UNITED STATES
DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
BUREAU OF LAND MANAGEMENT

ALLOTMENT EVALUATION SUMMARY

District

Battle Mountain

Planning Area

Shoshone/Eureka

Date

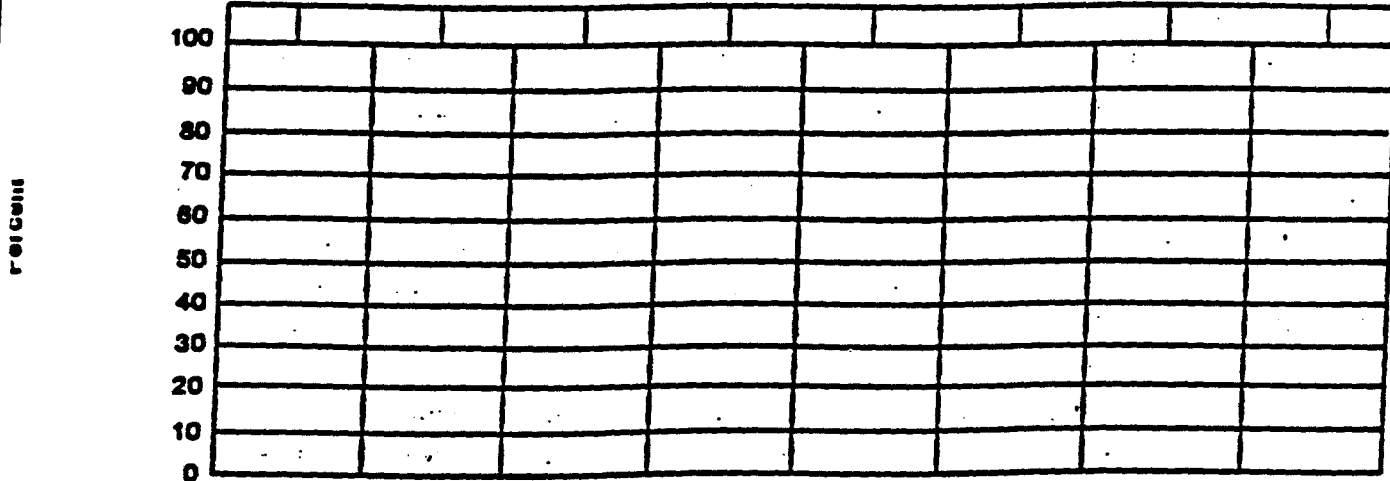
Allotment

Willow Ranch

Key Management Area

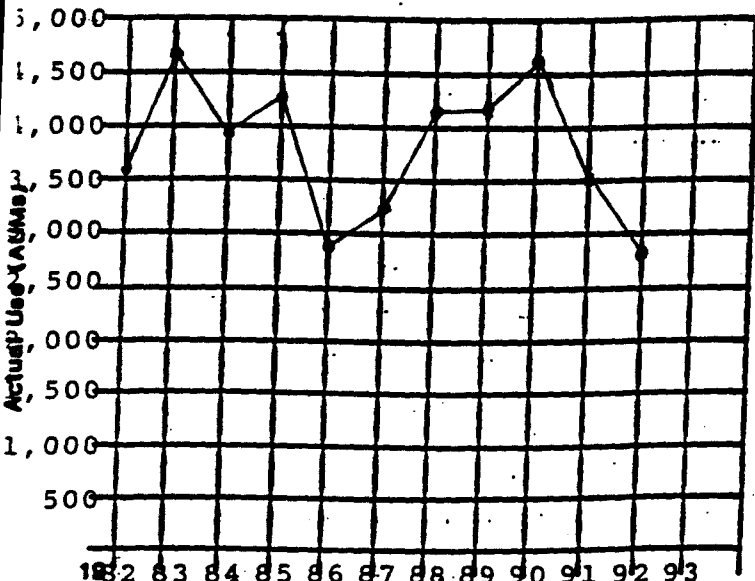
Key Area # 8

Trend Index (Frequency)
Date

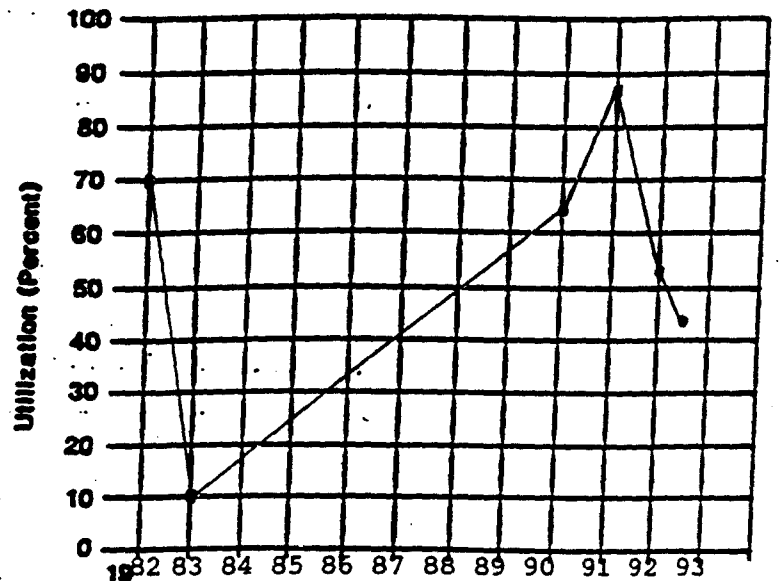


Code
Key Species-Co

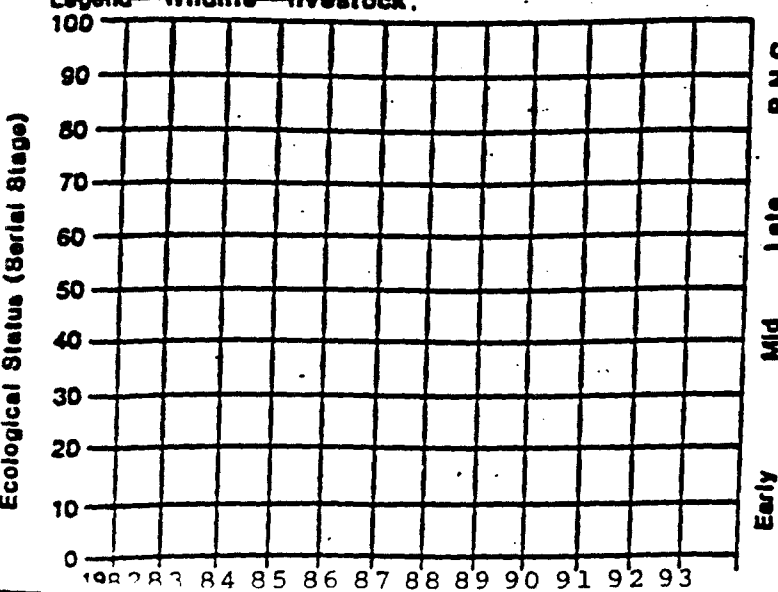
AGCR



Legend—Wildlife—livestock.



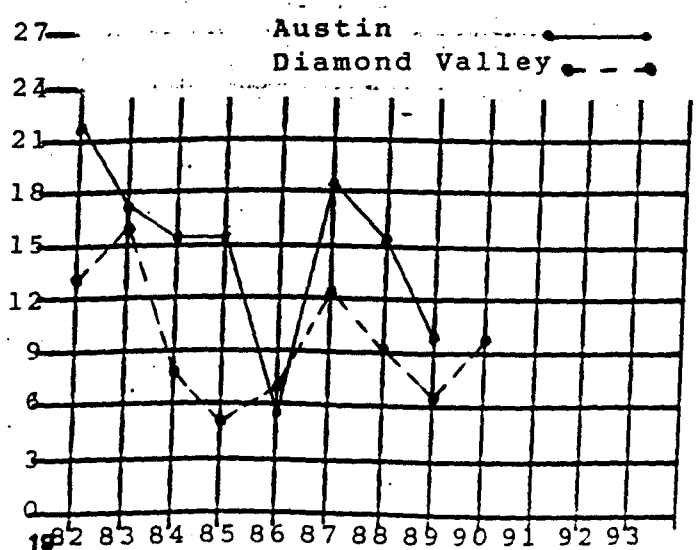
Legend—Actual—Allowable



Ecological Status (Berlel Stage)

Early Mid Late P N C

Precipitation (Inches)



Austin
Diamond Valley

UNITED STATES
DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
BUREAU OF LAND MANAGEMENT

District

Battle Mountain

Planning Area

Shoshone/Eureka

Date

ALLOTMENT EVALUATION SUMMARY

Allotment

Willow Ranch

Key Management Area

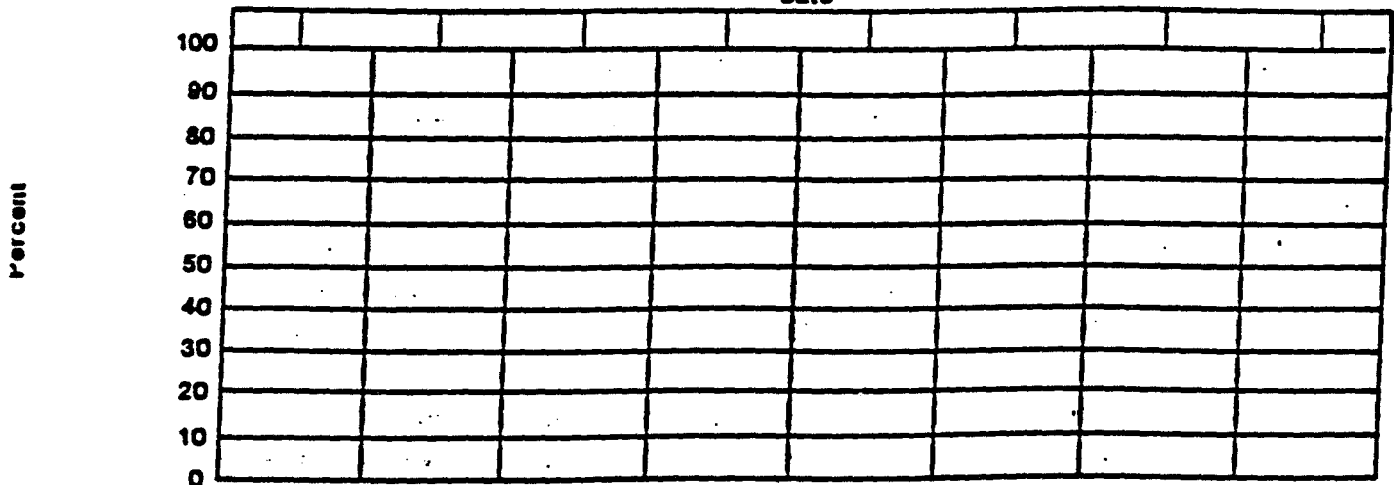
Key Area # 9

Trend Index (Frequency)

Date

Code

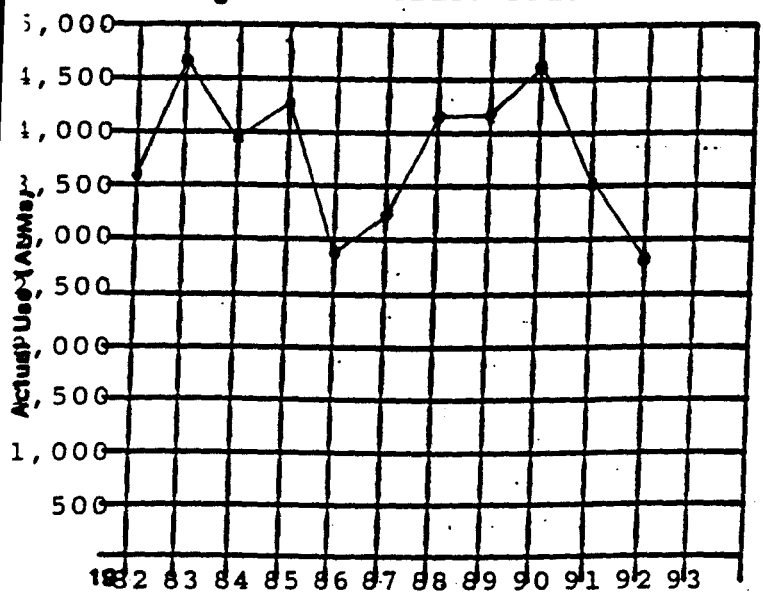
Key Species-Co



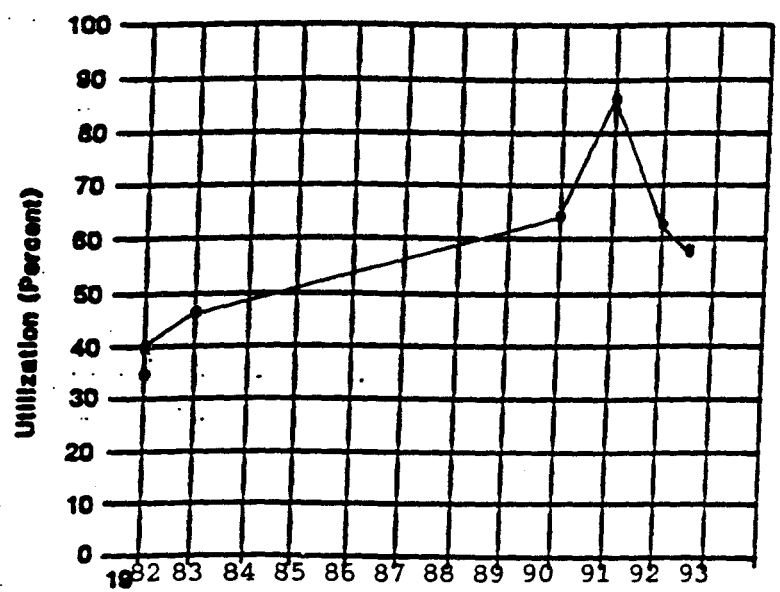
AGCR

CELA

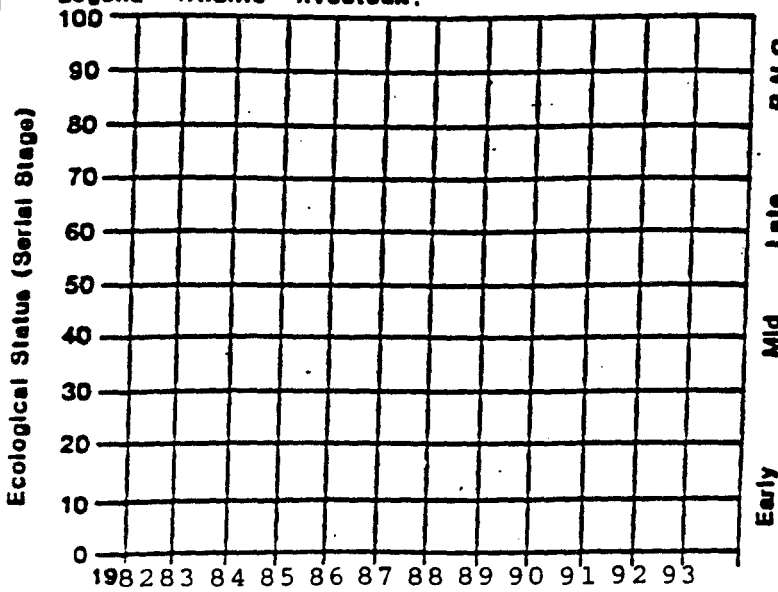
ORHY



Legend—Wildlife—livestock.

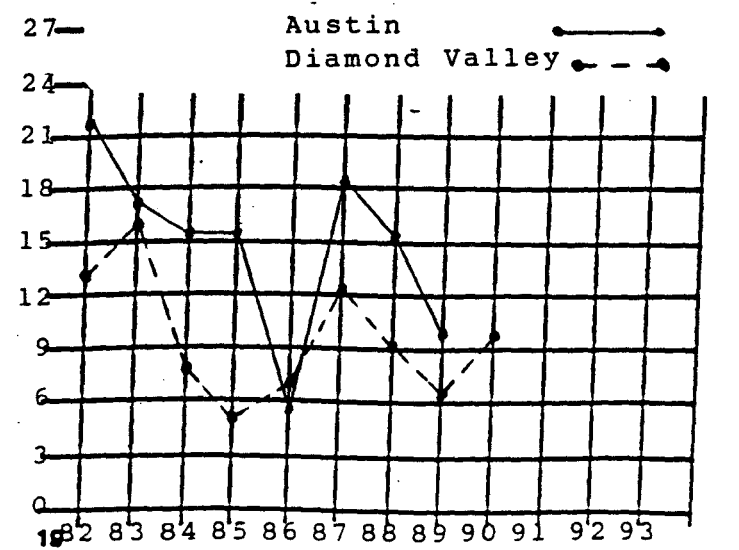


Legend—Actual—Allowable



Early Mid Late P N C

Precipitation (Inches)



Legend—Actual—Normal

UNITED STATES
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Battle Mountain

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Shoshone/Eureka

Date

ALLOTMENT EVALUATION SUMMARY

Allotment

Willow Ranch

Key Management Area

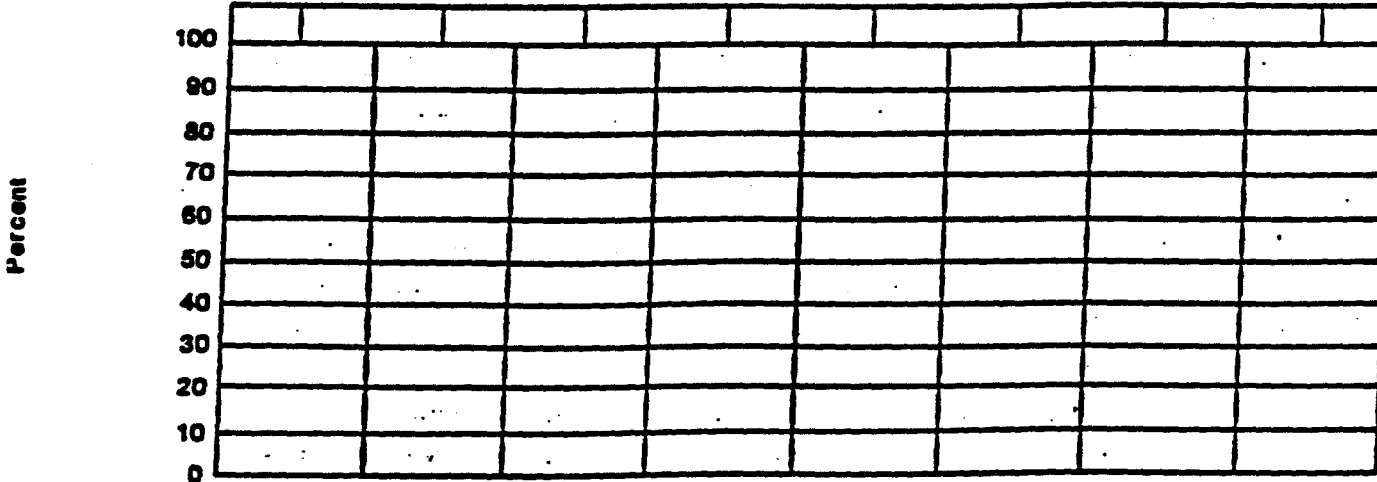
Key Area #10

Trend Index (Frequency)

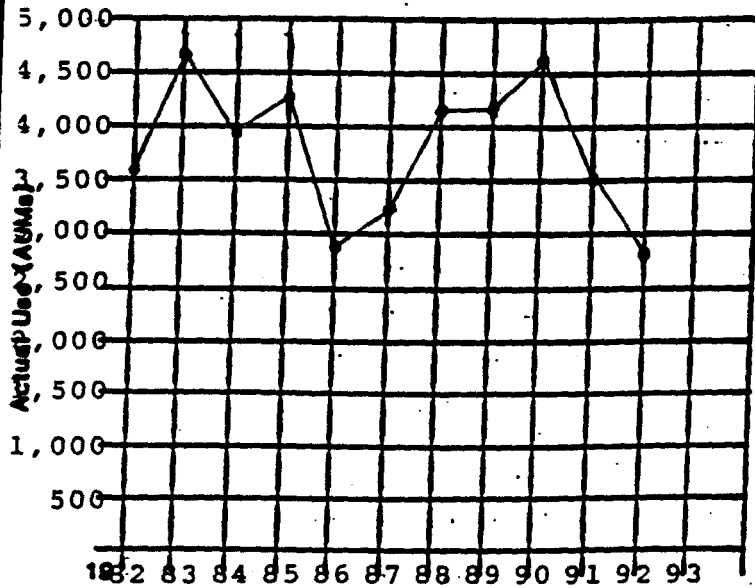
Date

Code

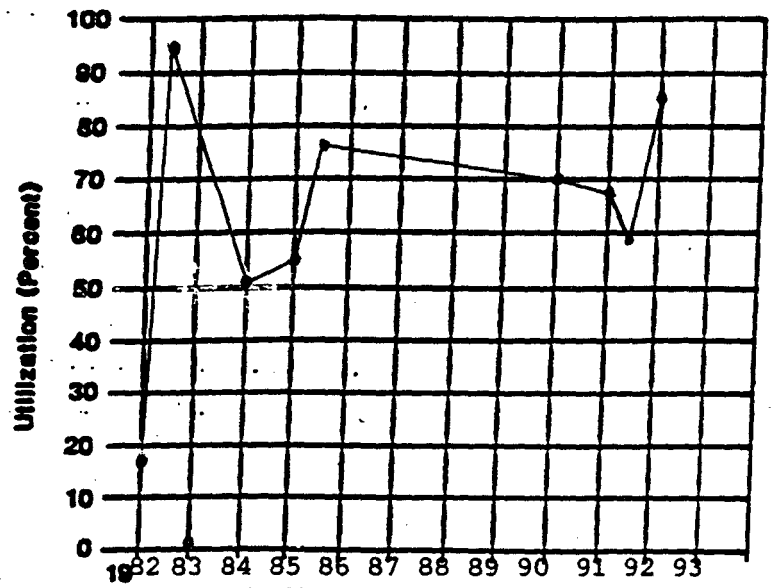
Key Species-Co



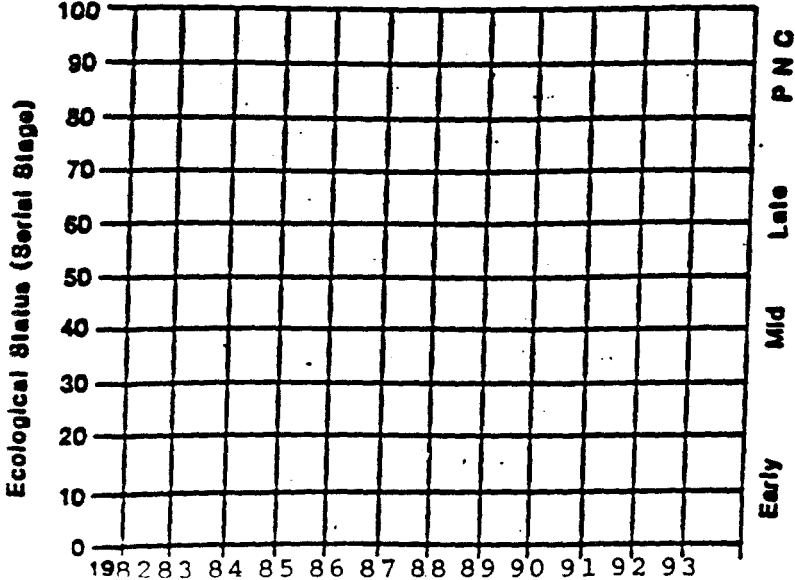
AGCR



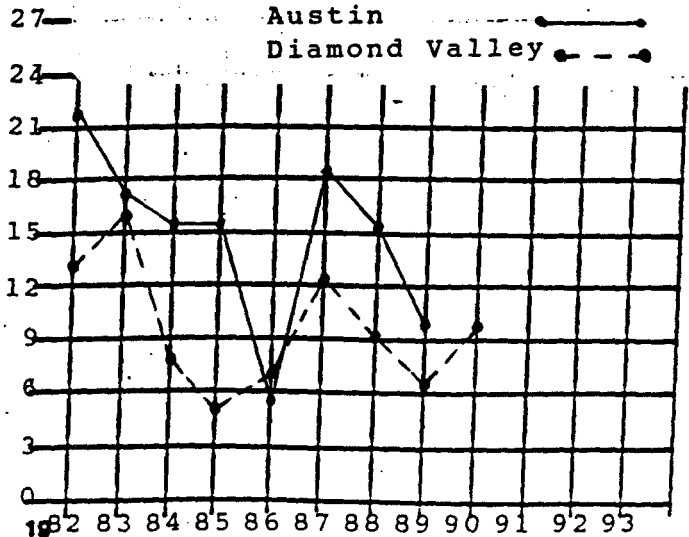
Legend—Wildlife—livestock.



Legend—Actual—Allowable



P N C
Early Mid Late



Austin
Diamond Valley

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ALLOTMENT EVALUATION SUMMARY

District

Battle Mountain

Planning Area

Shoshone/Eureka

Date

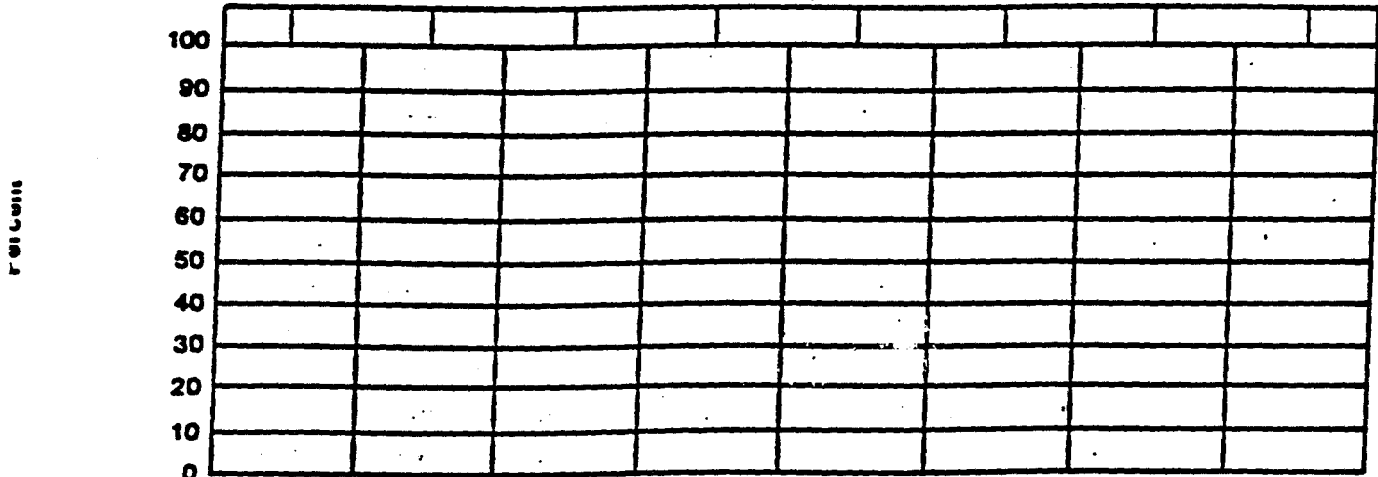
Allotment

Willow Ranch

Key Management Area

Key Area # 11

Trend Index (Frequency)
Date

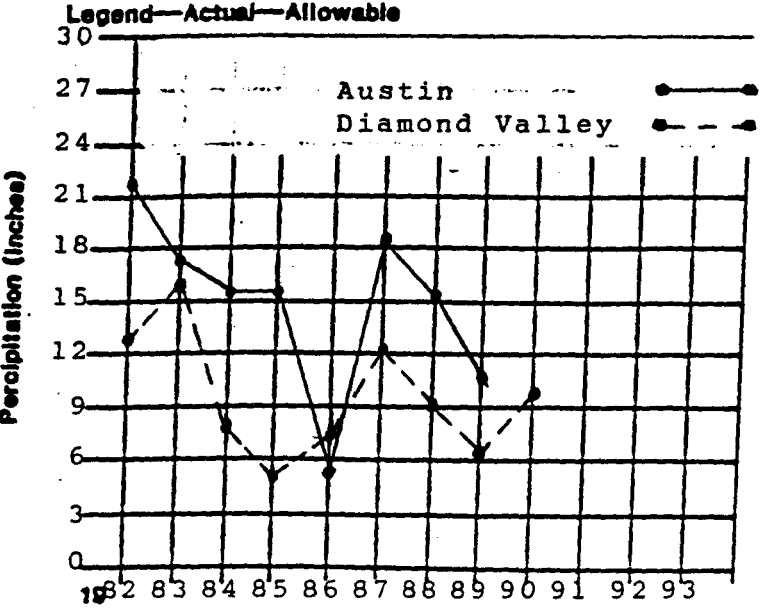
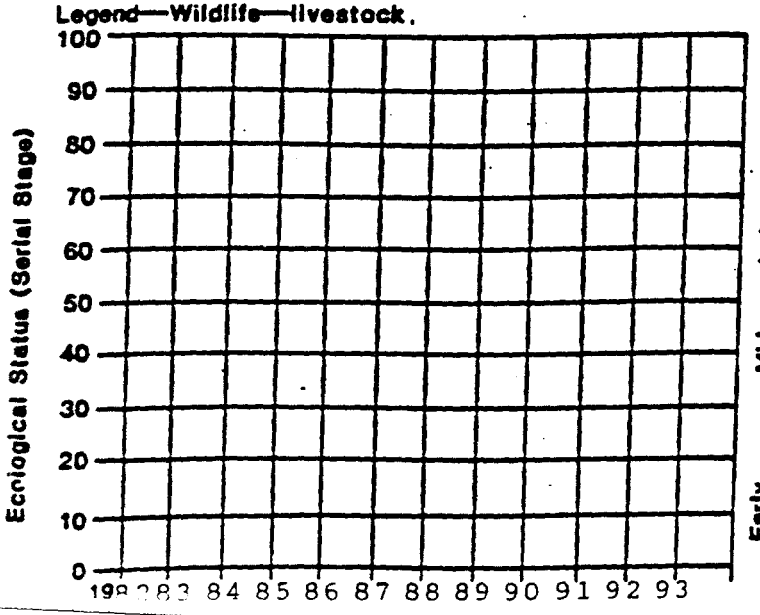
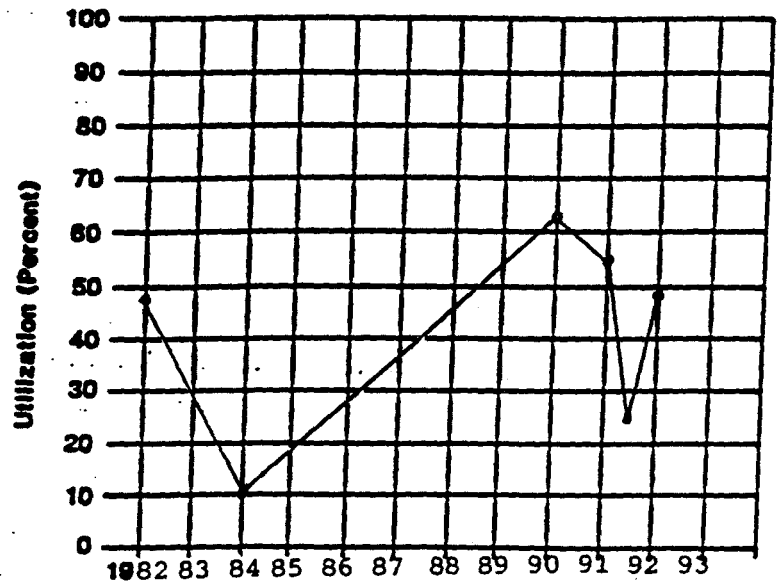
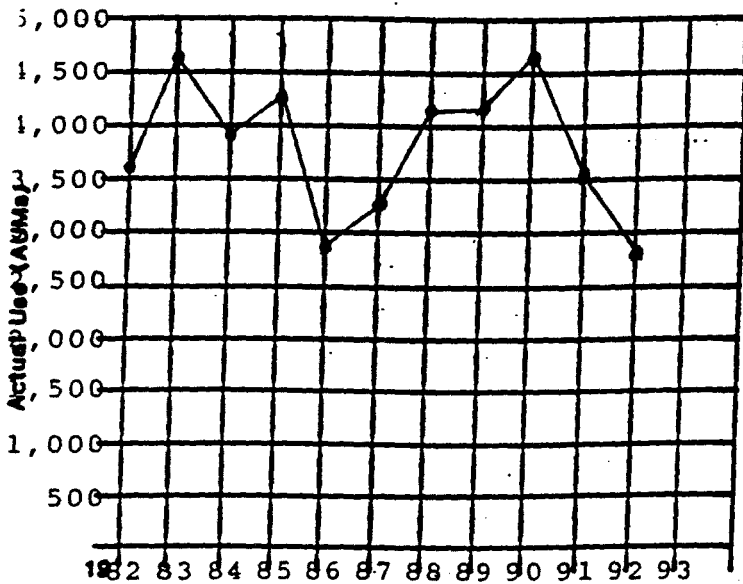


Code
Key Species-C

ORHY

SIHY

STCO4



UNITED STATES
DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
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District

Battle Mountain.

Planning Area

Shoshone/Eureka

Date

ALLOTMENT EVALUATION SUMMARY

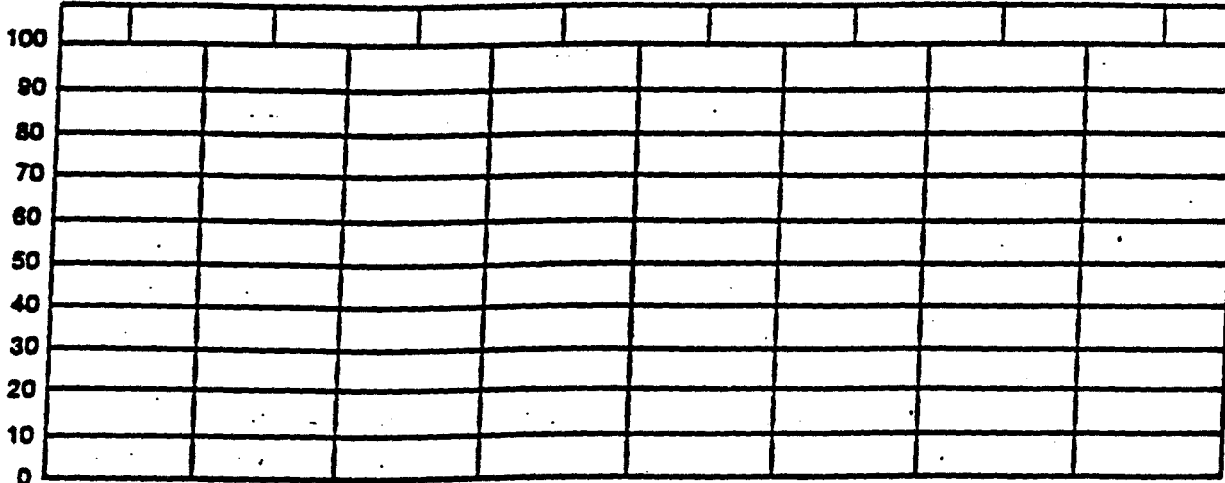
Allotment

Willow Ranch

Key Management Area

Key Area # 12

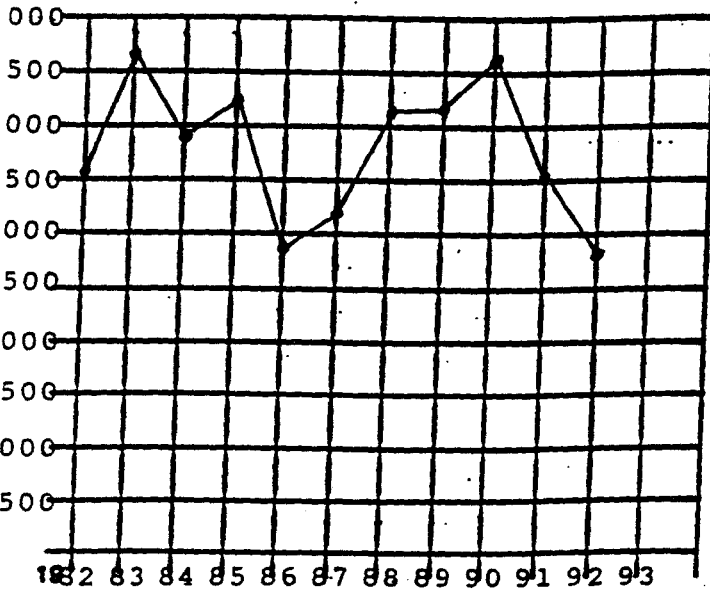
Trend Index (Frequency)
Date



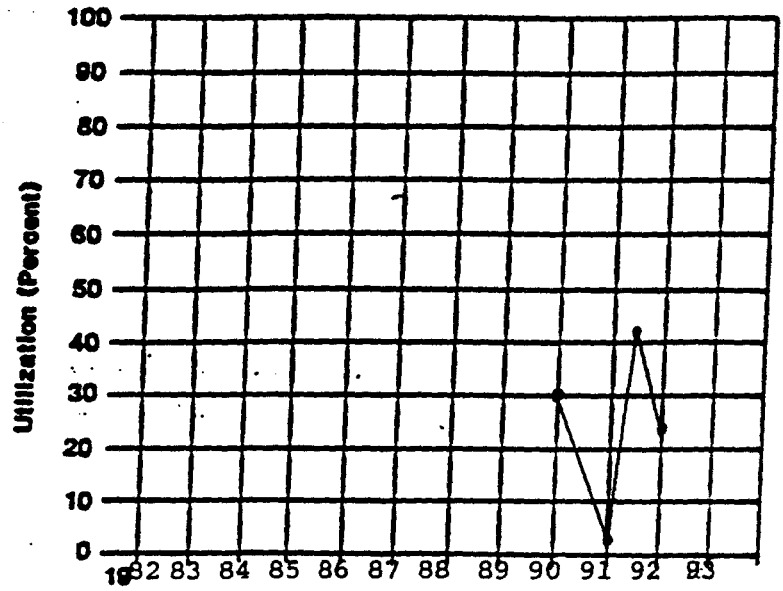
Code
Key Species-Cod

ORHY

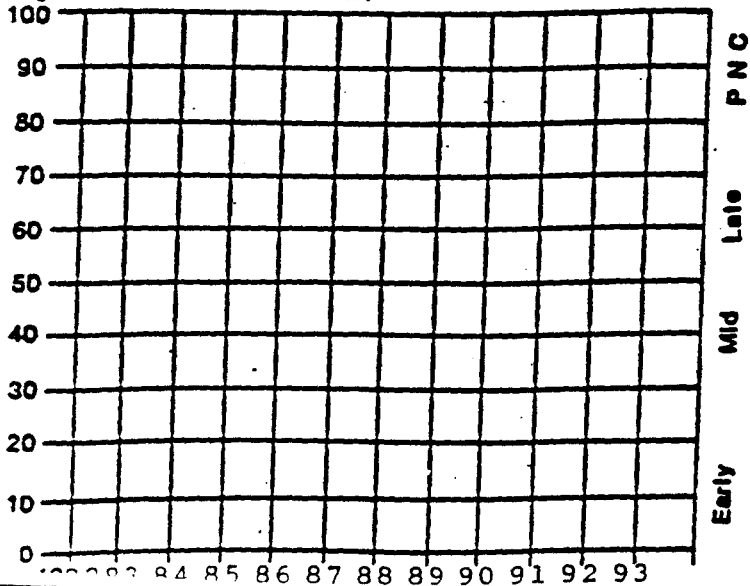
SIHY



Legend—Wildlife—livestock.

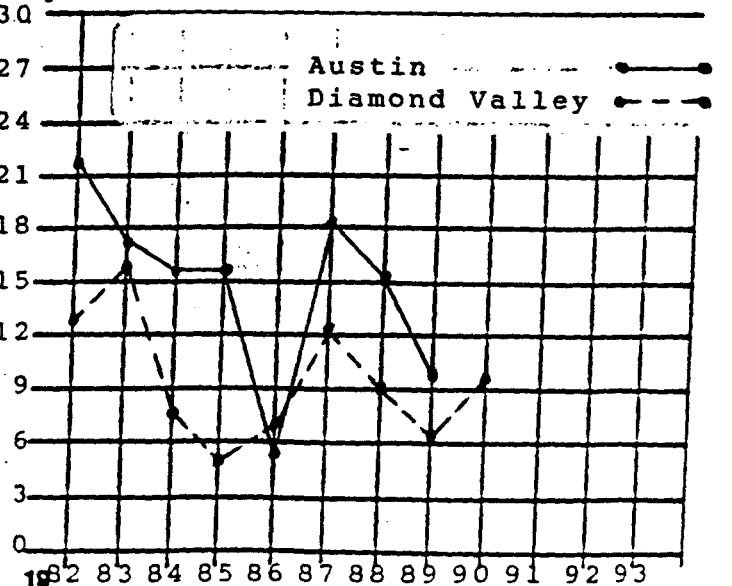


Legend—Actual—Allowable



Early Mid Late P N C

Precipitation (inches)



Austin
Diamond Valley

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District

Battle Mountain

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Date

Allotment

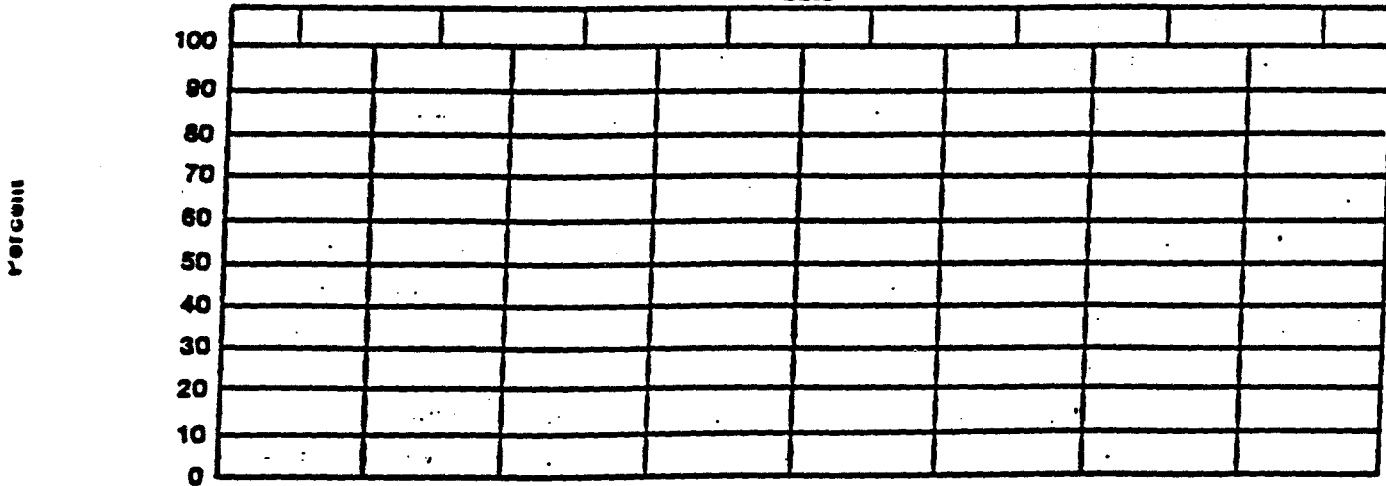
Willow Ranch

Key Management Area

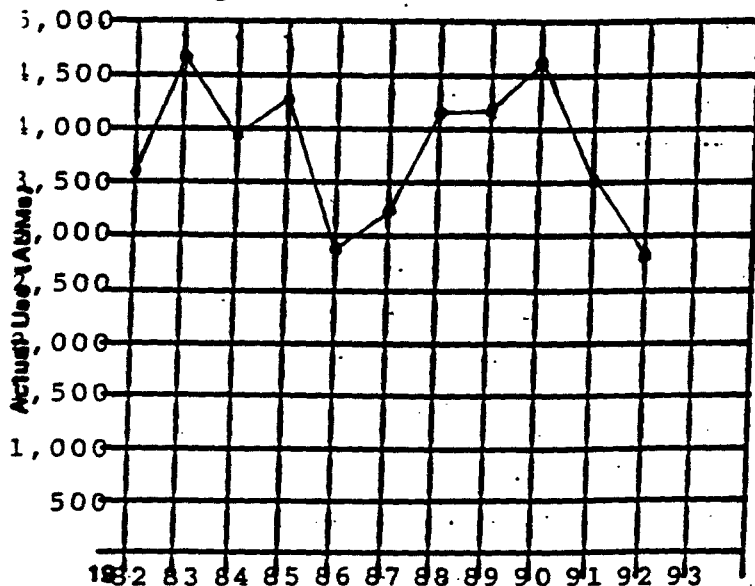
Key Area # 13

Trend Index (Frequency)
Date

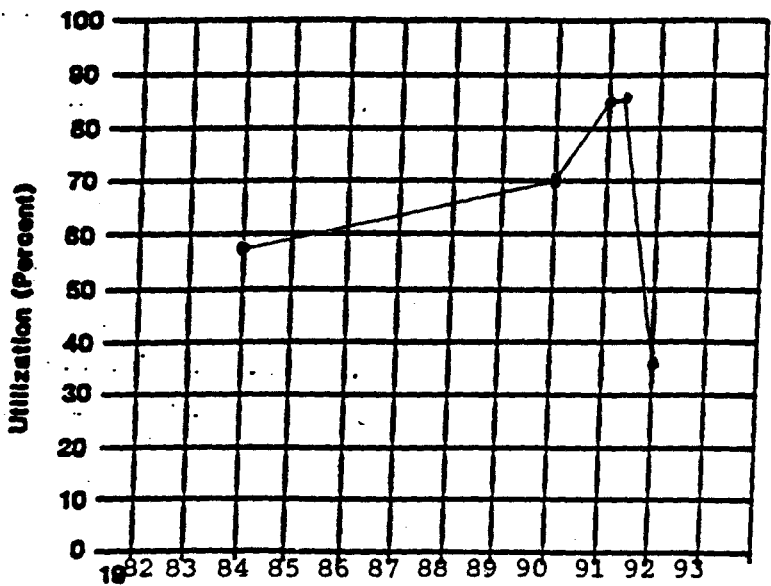
Code
Key Species-C



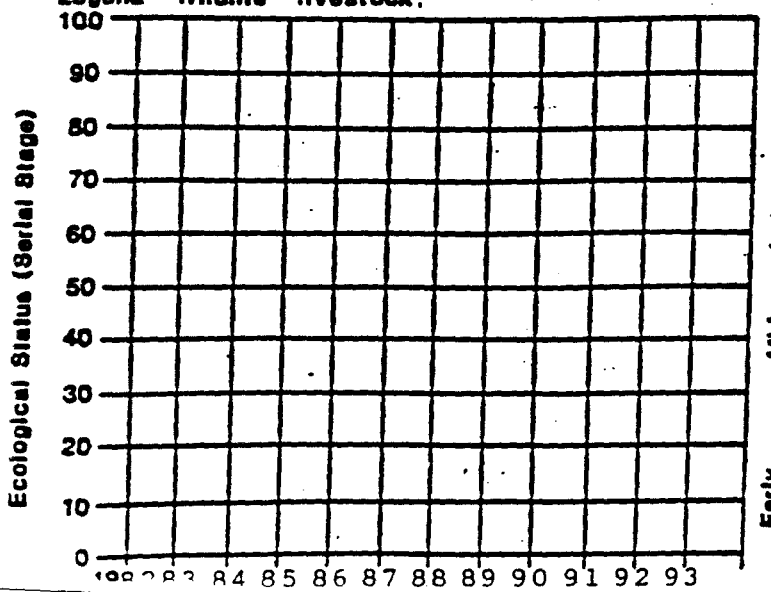
AGCR



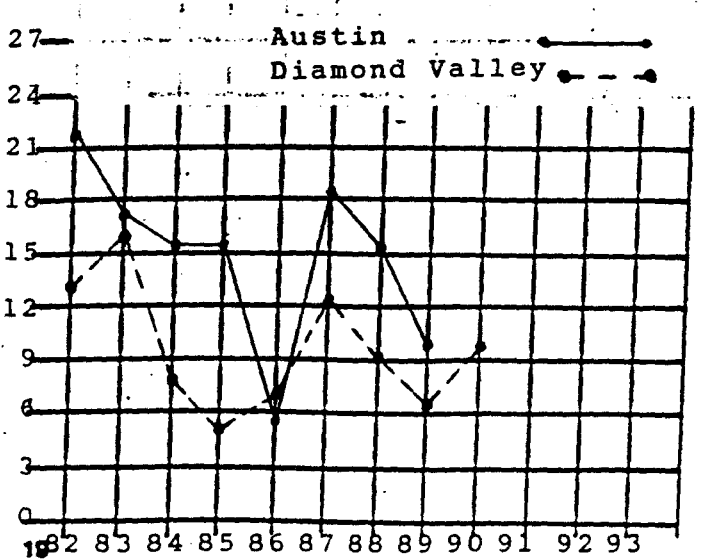
Legend—Wildlife—livestock.



Legend—Actual—Allowable



PNC
Late
Mid
Early



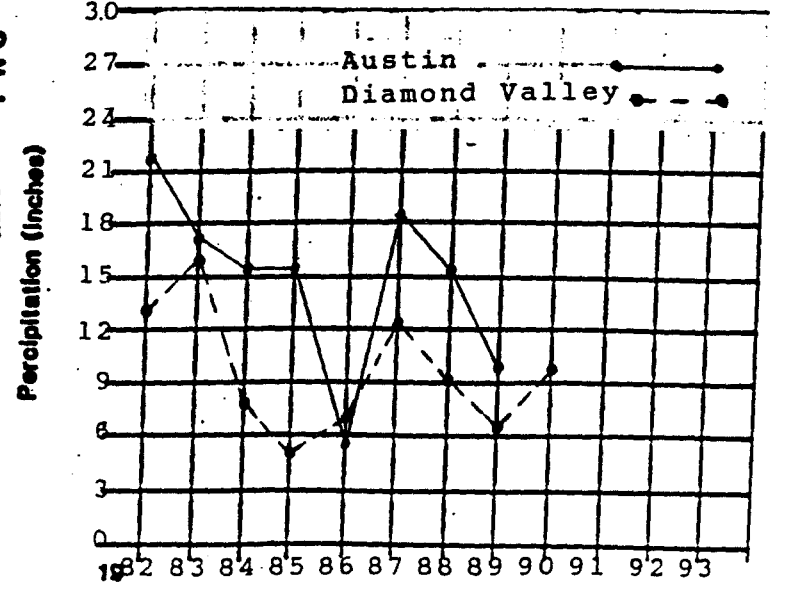
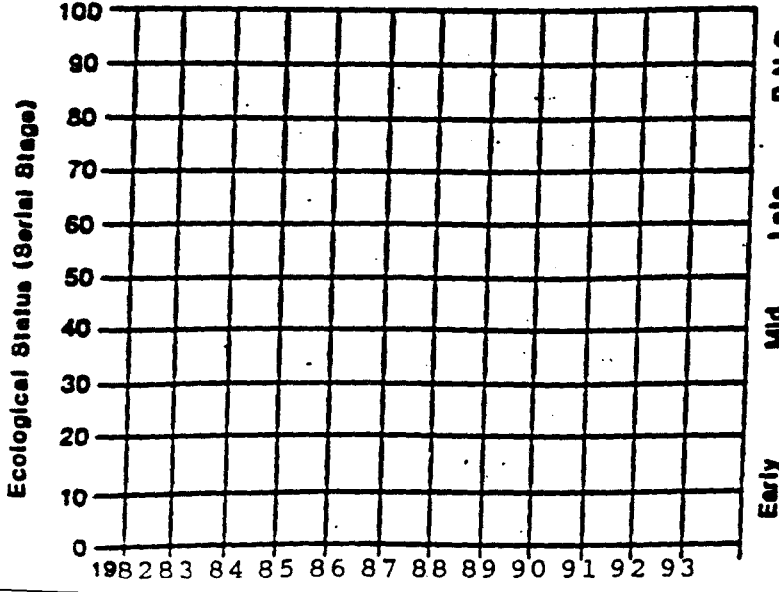
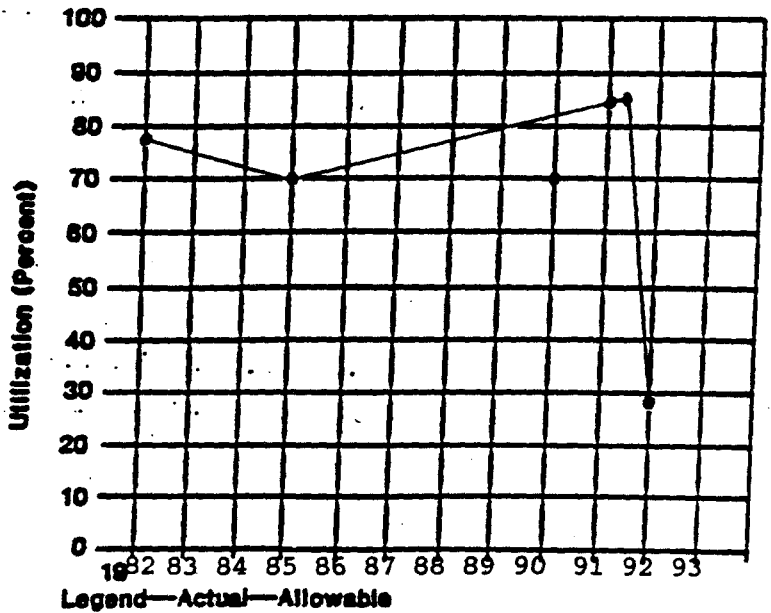
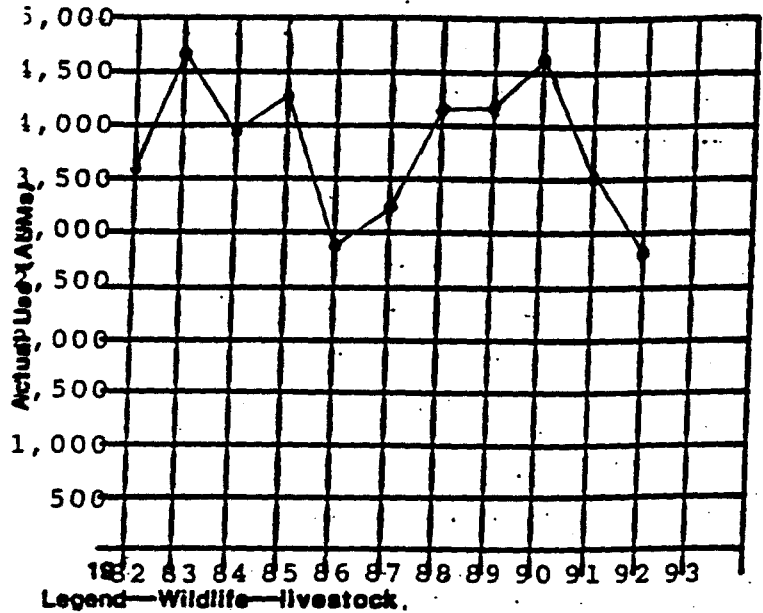
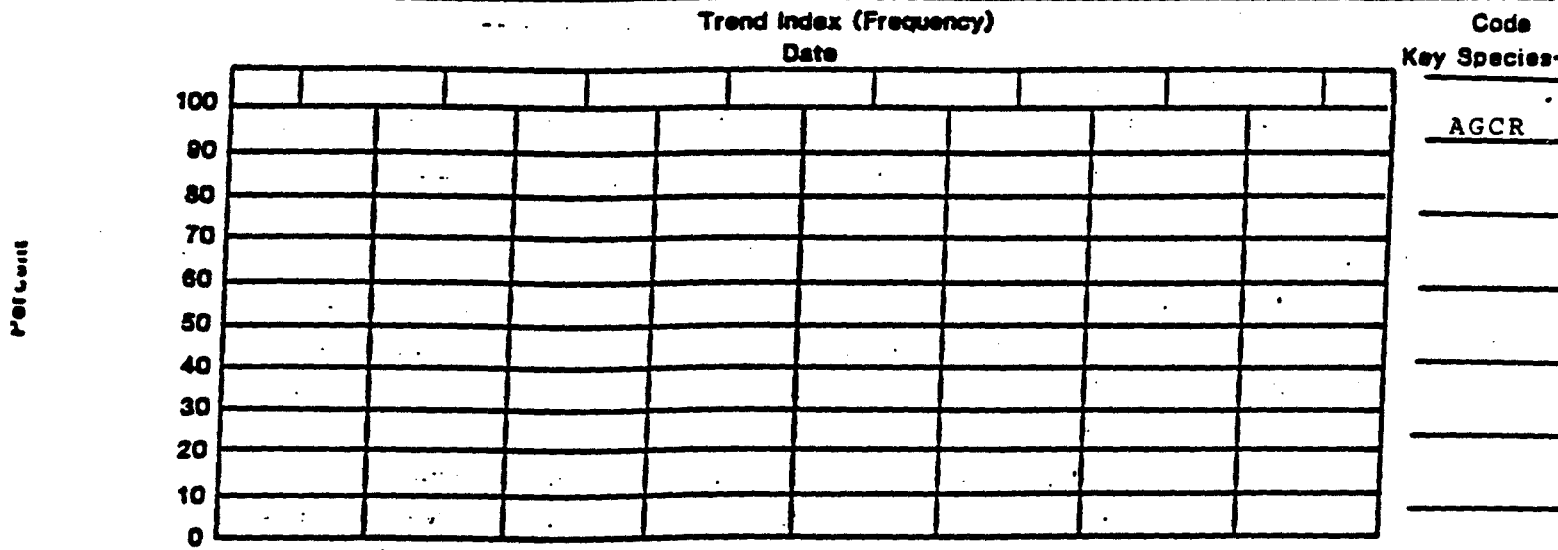
Normal

UNITED STATES
DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
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District	
Battle Mountain	
Planning Area	Date
Shoshone/Eureka	

ALLOTMENT EVALUATION SUMMARY

Allotment	Willow Ranch	Key Management Area	Key Area # 14
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UNITED STATES
DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
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District

Battle Mountain

Planning Area

Shoshone/Eureka

Date

ALLOTMENT EVALUATION SUMMARY

Allotment

Willow Ranch

Key Management Area

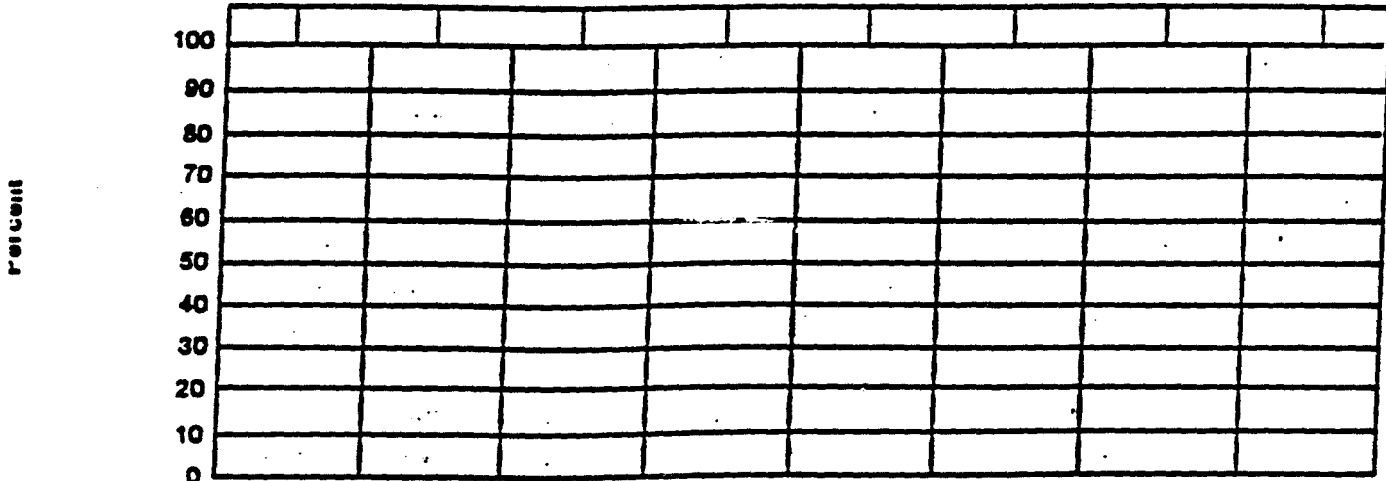
Key Area # 15

Trend Index (Frequency)

Date

Code

Key Species-Co



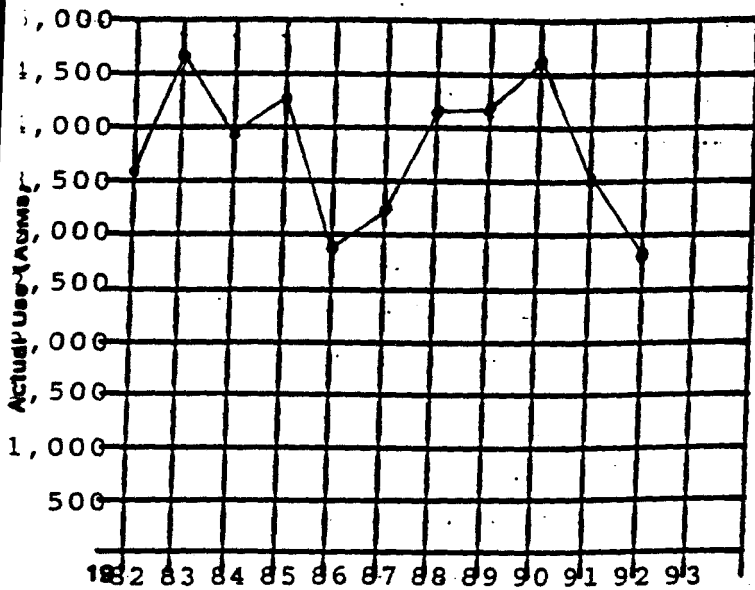
ELCI2

SPAI

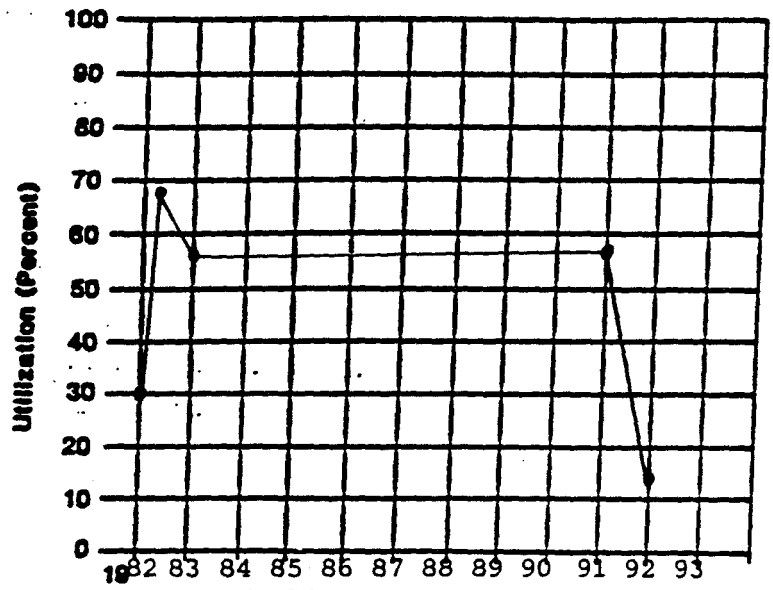
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DISP

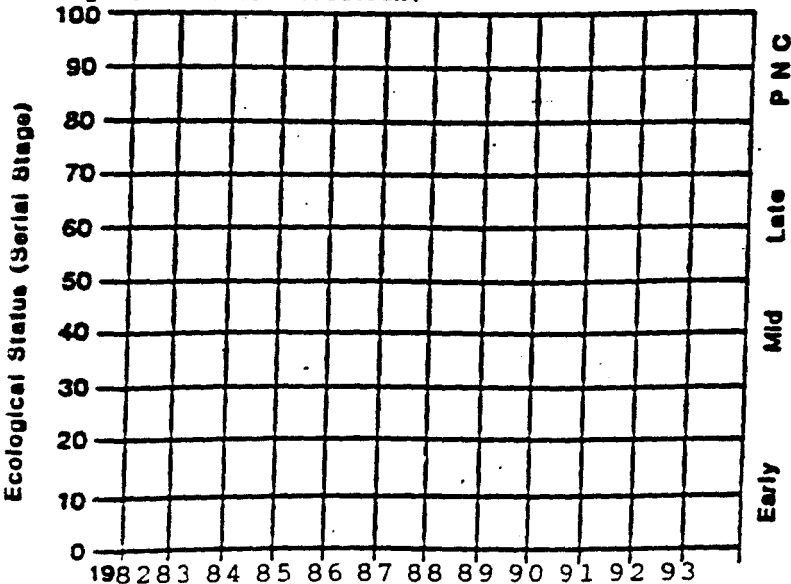
JUNCUS



Legend—Wildlife—livestock.



Legend—Actual—Allowable



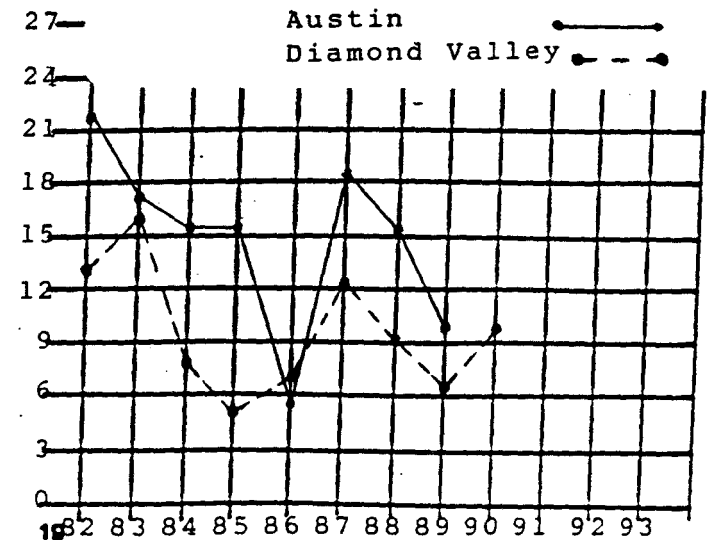
P N C

Late

Mid

Early

Precipitation (inches)



Legend—Actual—Normal

UNITED STATES
DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
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ALLOTMENT EVALUATION SUMMARY

District

Battle Mountain

Planning Area

Shoshone/Eureka

Date

Allotment

Willow Ranch

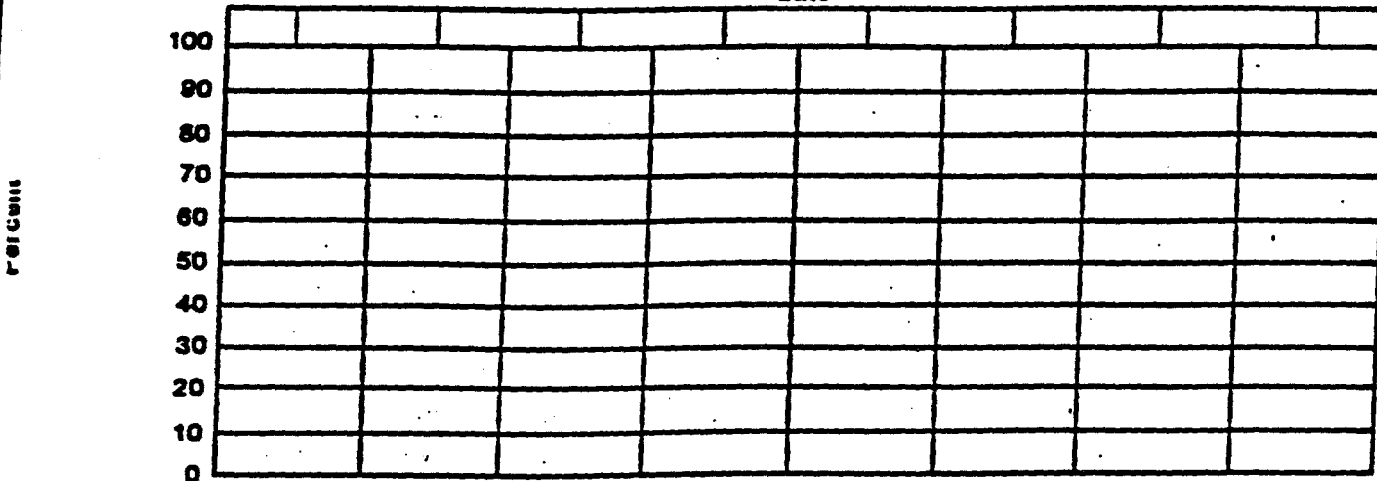
Key Management Area

Key Area # 16

Trend Index (Frequency)
Date

Code

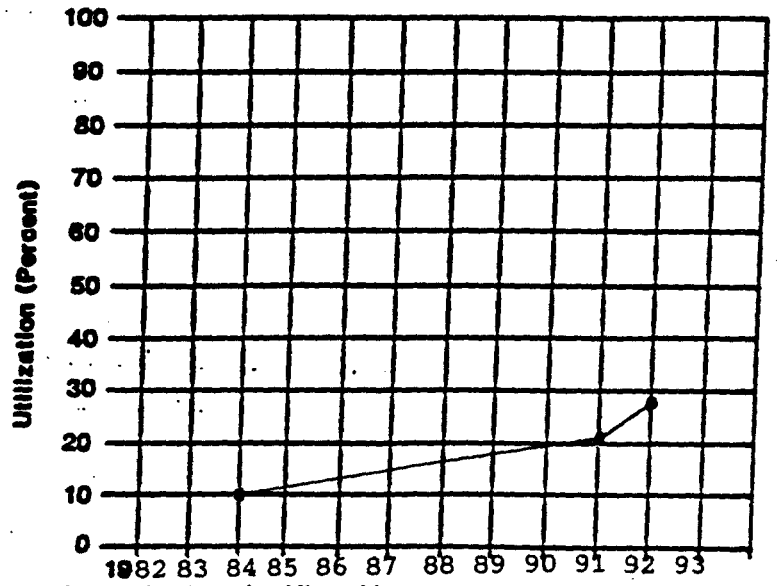
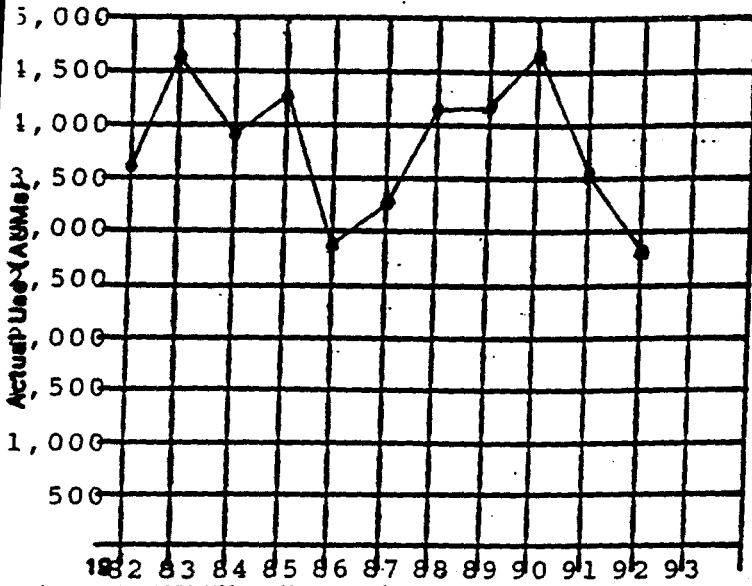
Key Species-Co



ORHY

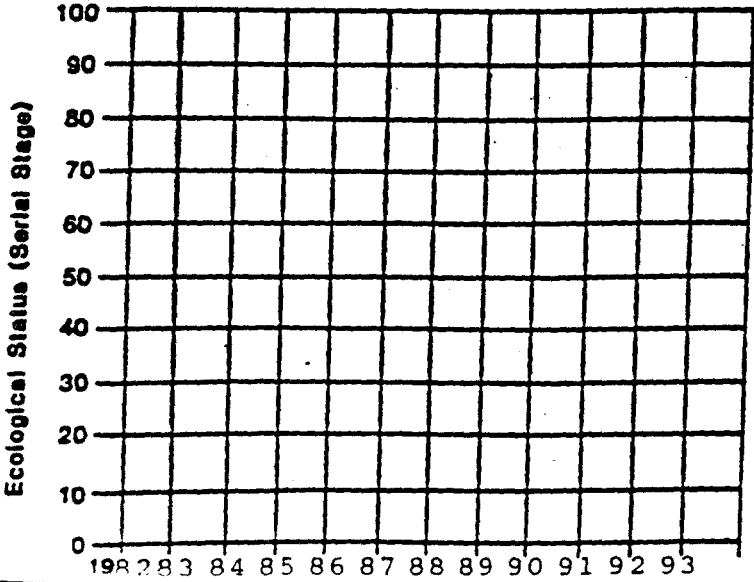
SIHY

STCO4

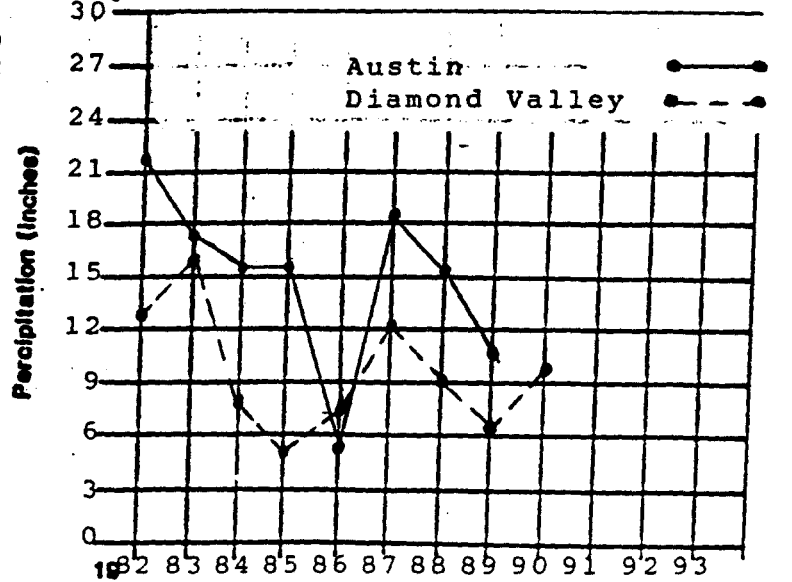


Legend—Wildlife—livestock.

Legend—Actual—Allowable



Early
Mid
Late
PNC



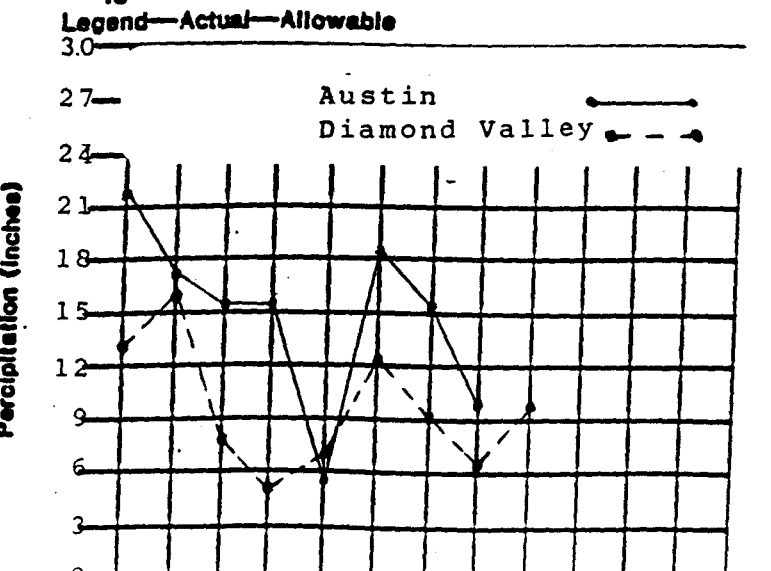
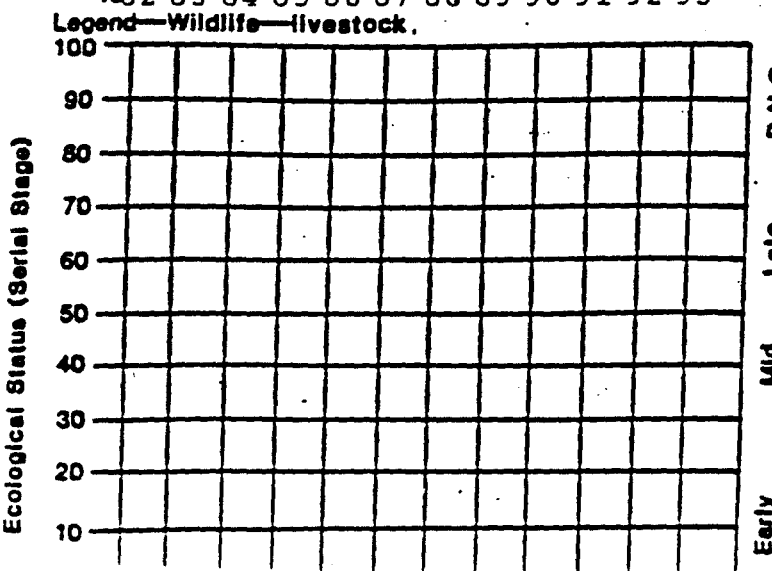
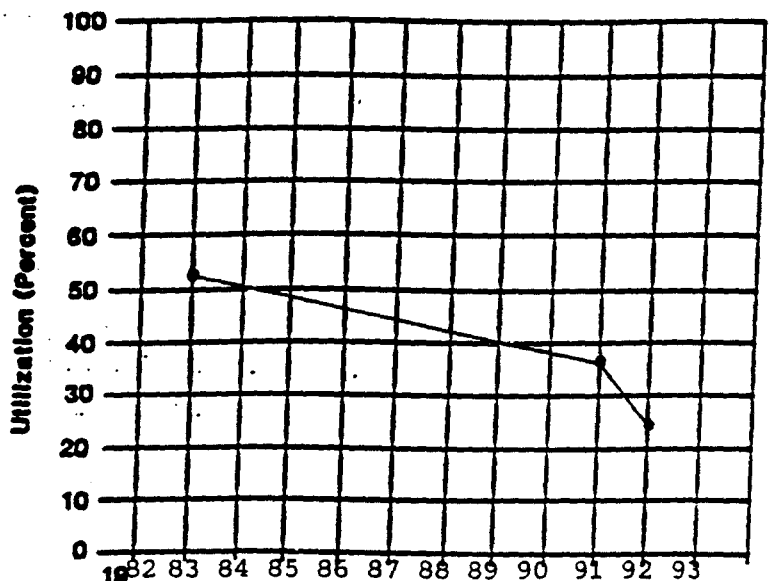
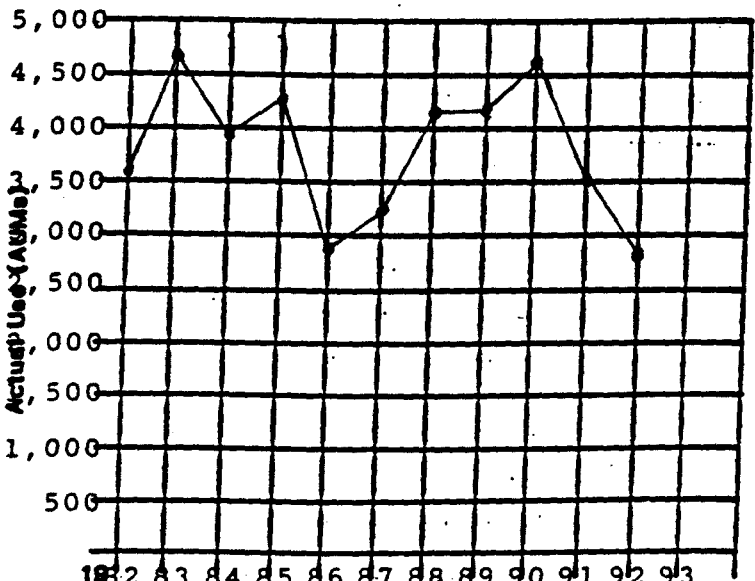
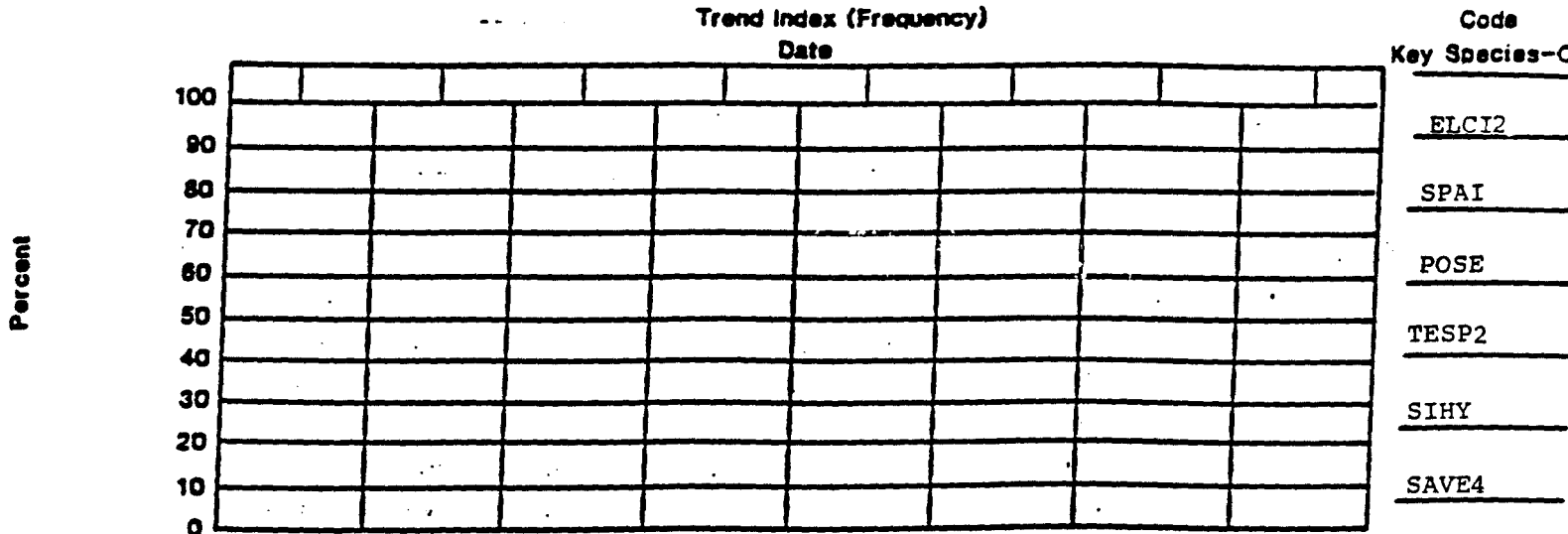
Legend—Actual—Normal

UNITED STATES
DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
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District	
Battle Mountain	
Planning Area	Date
Shoshone/Eureka	

ALLOTMENT EVALUATION SUMMARY

Allotment	Willow Ranch	Key Management Area	Key Area #17
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UNITED STATES
DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
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ALLOTMENT EVALUATION SUMMARY

District

Battle Mountain

Planning Area

Shoshone/Eureka

Date

Allotment

Willow Ranch

Key Management Area

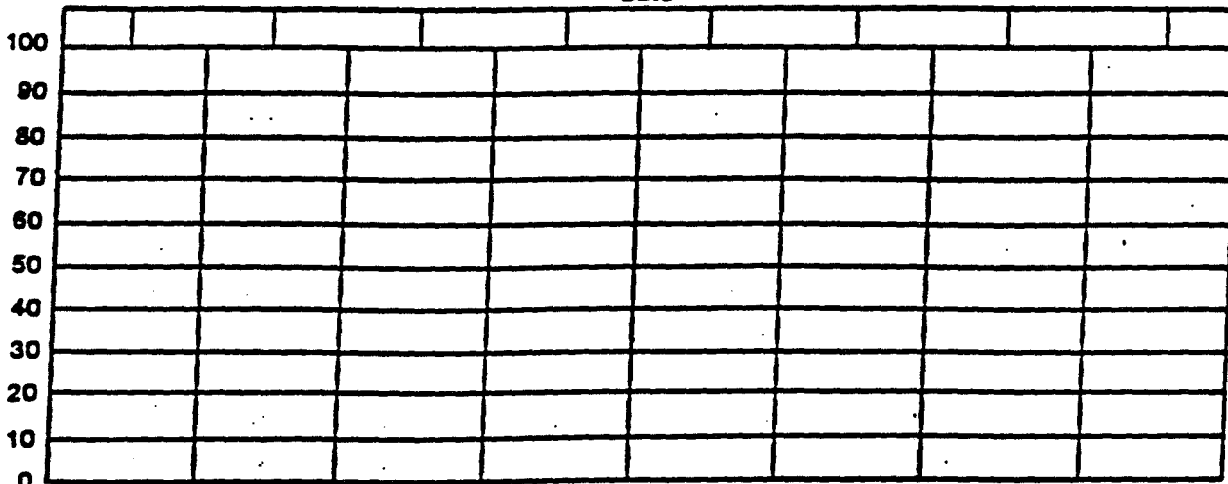
Key Area #18

Trend Index (Frequency)

Date

Code

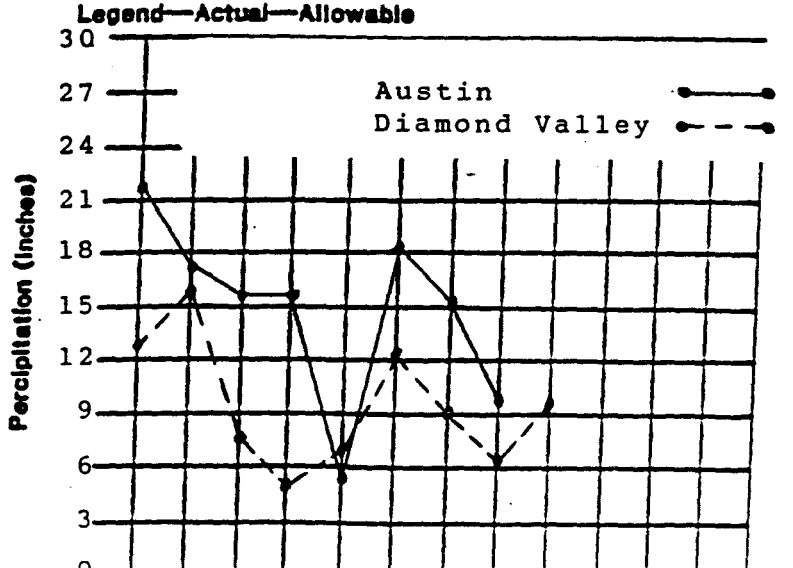
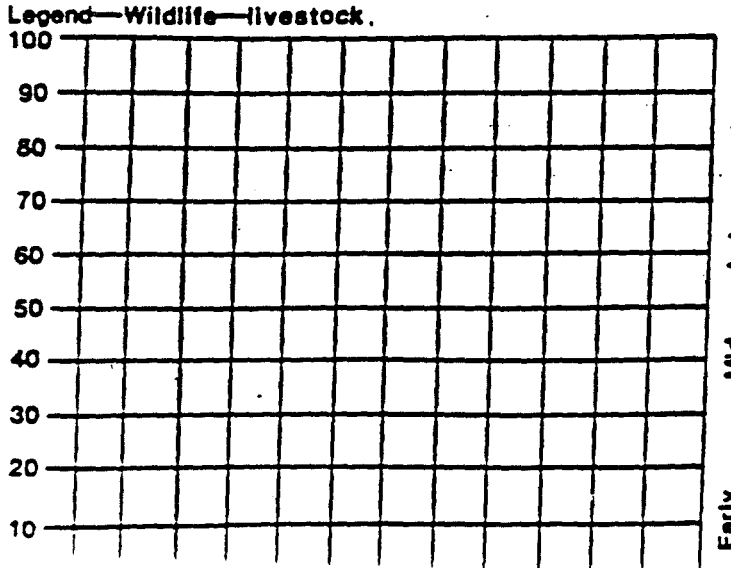
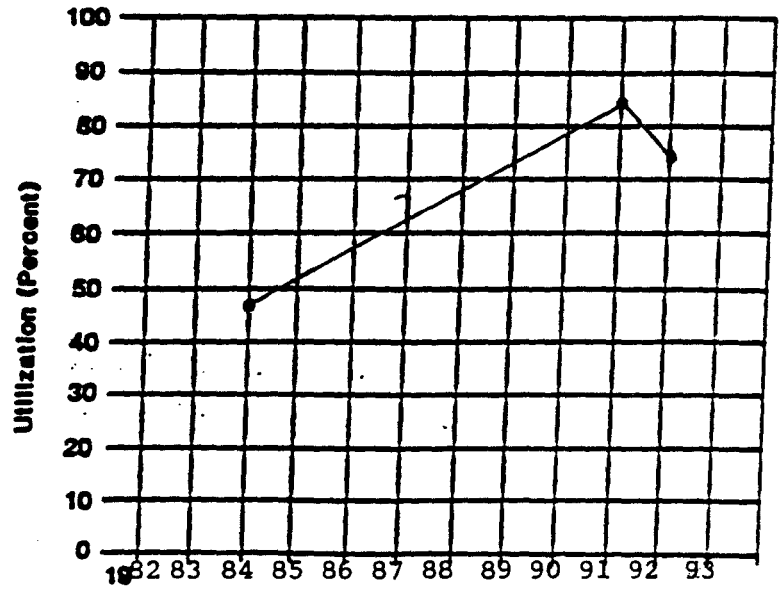
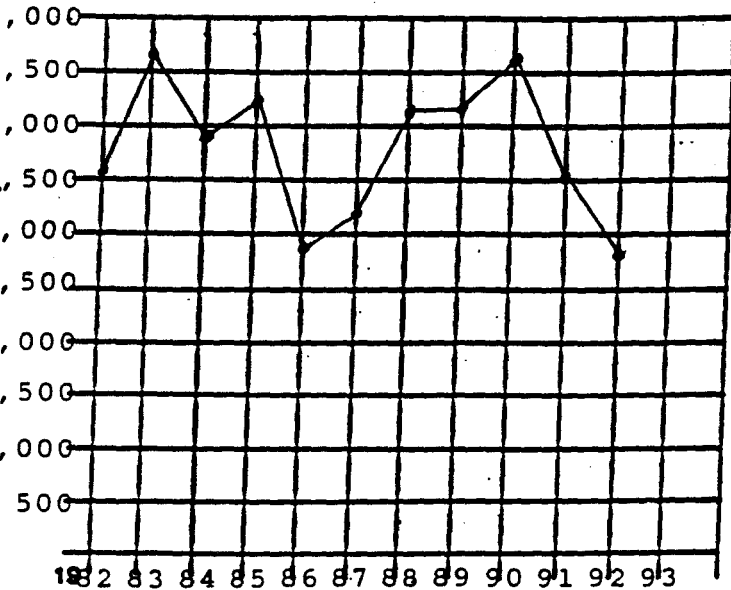
Key Species-Cod



ORHY

SIHY

CELA

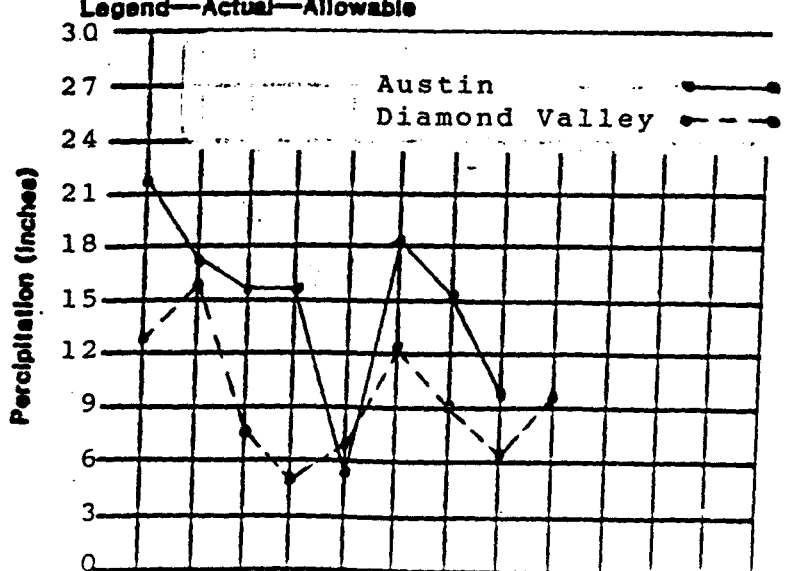
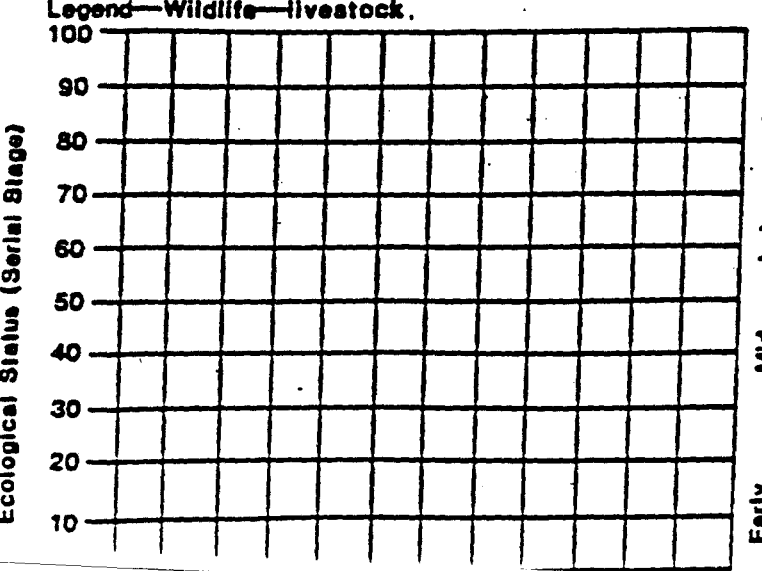
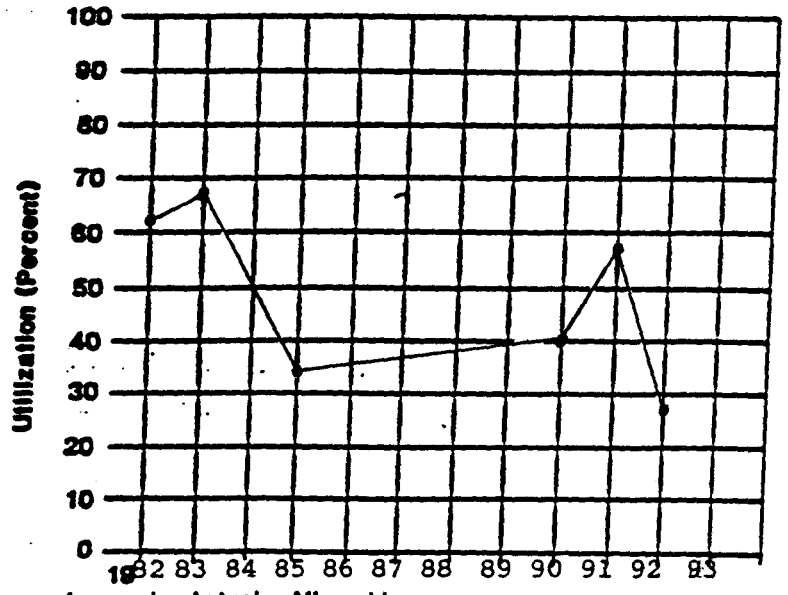
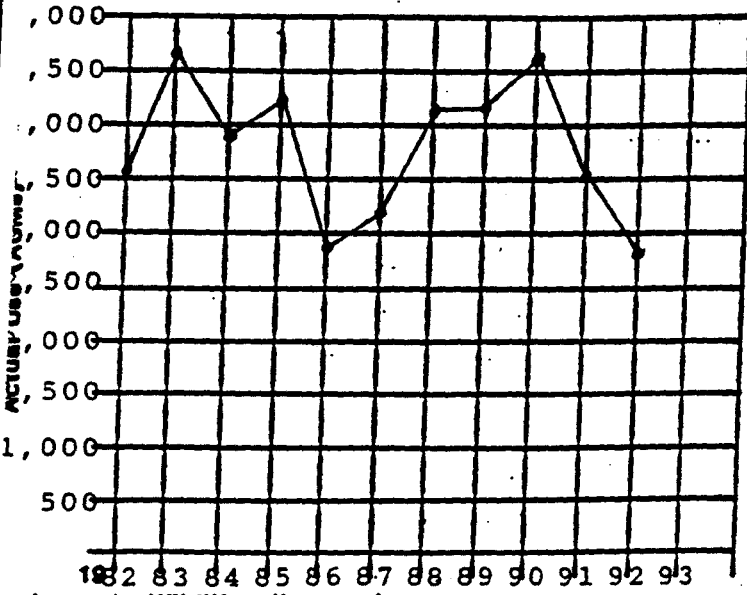
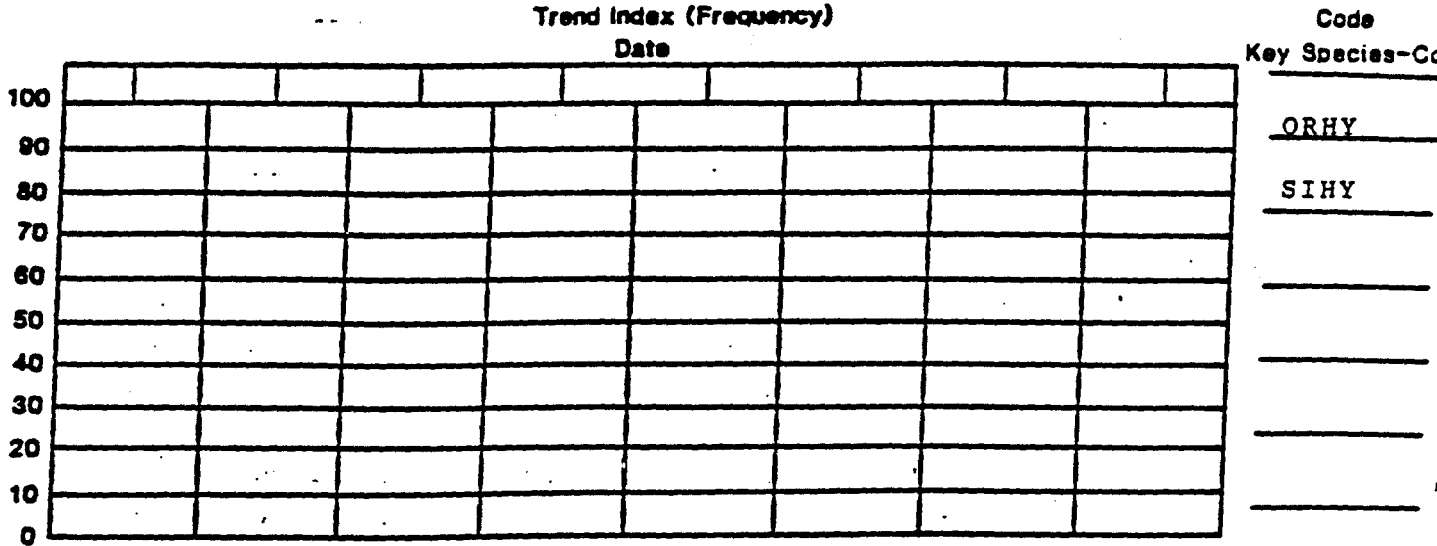


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BUREAU OF LAND MANAGEMENT

ALLOTMENT EVALUATION SUMMARY

District Battle Mountain	
Planning Area Shoshone/Eureka	Date

Allotment Willow Ranch	Key Management Area Key Area # 19
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ALLOTMENT EVALUATION SUMMARY

District

Battle Mountain

Planning Area

Shoshone/Eureka

Date

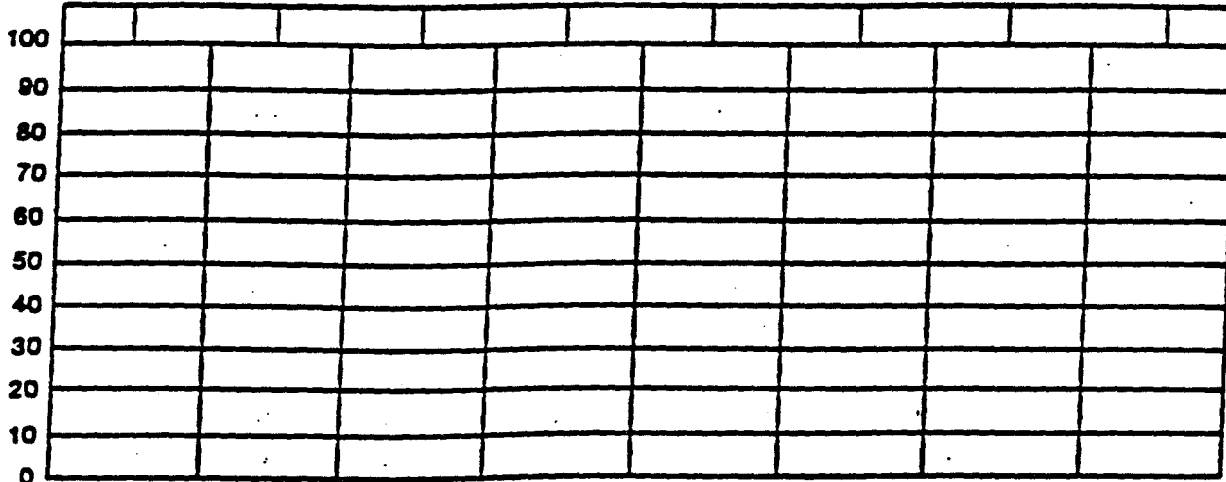
Allotment

Willow Ranch

Key Management Area

Key Area # 20

Trend Index (Frequency)
Date



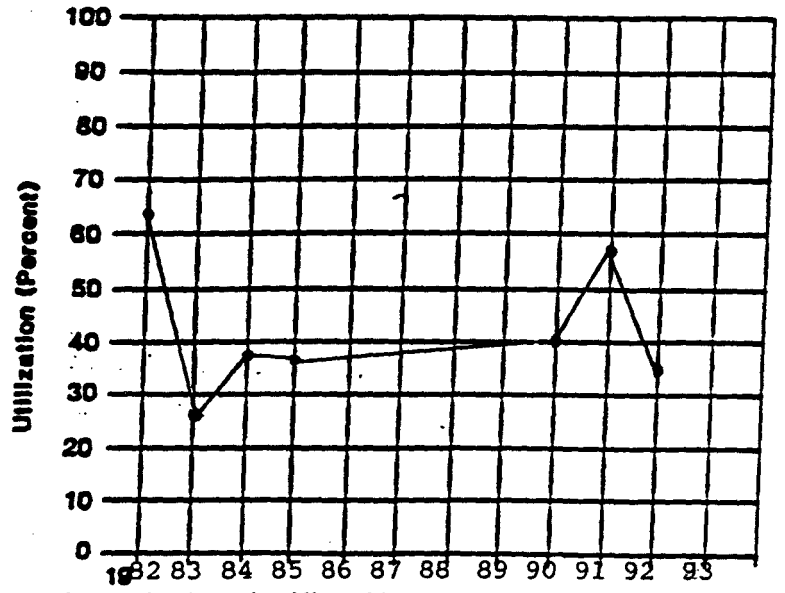
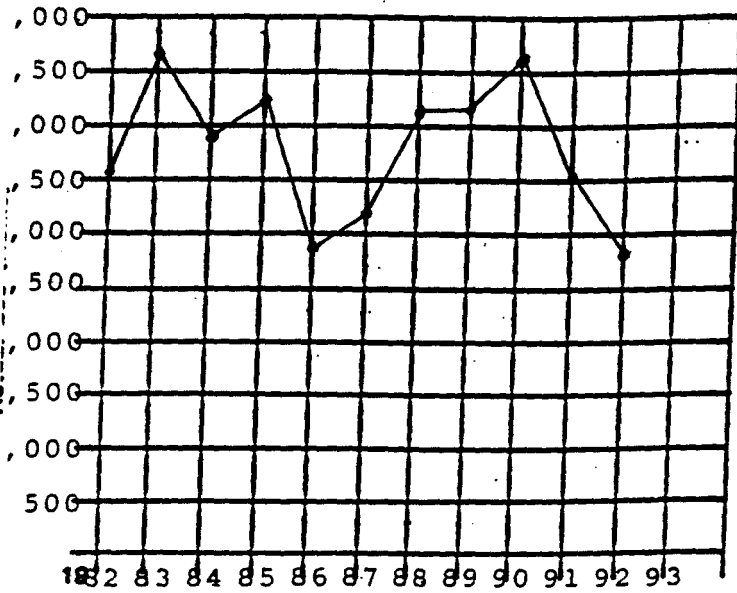
Code
Key Species-Co

ORHY

SIHY

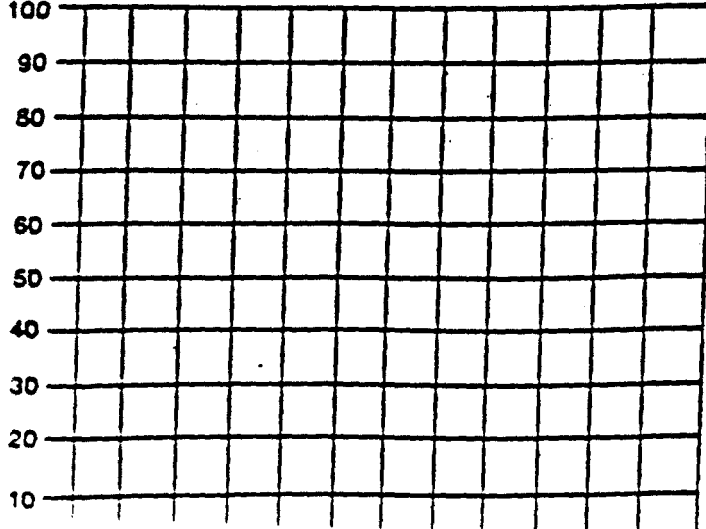
STCO4

SPAI



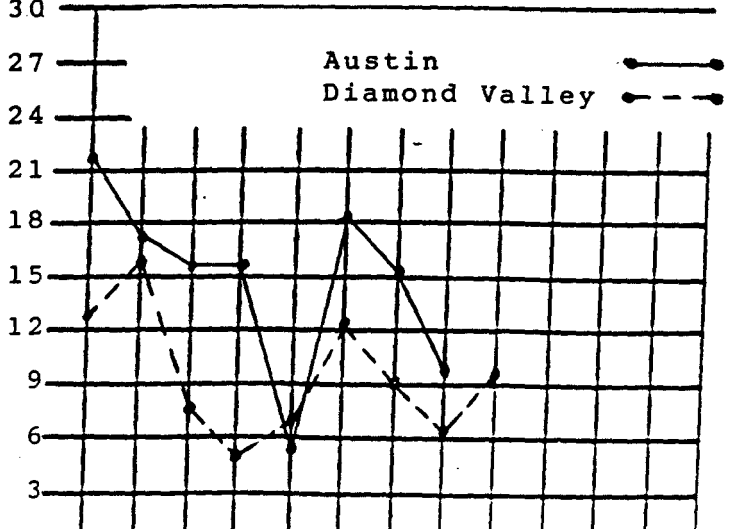
Legend—Wildlife—livestock.

Legend—Actual—Allowable



Early Mid Late PNC

Precipitation (inches)



Austin
Diamond Valley

APPENDIX B

<u>AREA OF USE</u>	<u>YEAR</u>	<u>% USE</u>	<u>AUMS USED</u>
Seedings	1992	70%	cattle - 1,493 horses - 0 wildlife - 0
			Total AUMs 1,493

(1,493 X 70%) / 70% = 1,493 AUMs desired use (seedings)

Native	1992	53%	cattle - 1,379 horses - 96 wildlife - 128
			Total AUMs 1,603

(1,603 X 60%) / 53% = 1,814.7 AUMs desired use (native)

Seedings	1991	66%	cattle - 1,836 horses - 0 wildlife - 0
			Total AUMs 1,836

(1,836 X 70%) / 66% = 1,947.3 AUMs desired use (seedings)

Native	1991	56%	cattle - 1,694 horses - 96 wildlife - 128
			Total AUMs 1,918

(1,918 X 60%) / 56% = 2,055 AUMs desired use (native)

Seedings	1990	80%	cattle - 2,439 horses - 0 wildlife - 0
			Total AUMs 2,439

(2,439 X 70%) / 80% = 2,134.1 AUMs desired use (seedings)

Native	1990	68%	cattle - 2,252 horses - 96 wildlife - 128
			Total AUMs 2,476

(2,476 X 60%) / 68% = 2,184.7 AUMs desired use (native)

Average AUM use in the Seedings	=	1,858.1
Average AUM use on the Native	=	2,018.1
Total AUM use in the Allotment	=	3,876.2

Appendix C

Willow Ranch Utilization Calculation

$$\frac{(\text{Severe acres X \% utilization}) + (\text{Heavy acres X \% utilization}) + (\text{Moderate acres X \% utilization})}{\text{Total Acres}}$$

= Percent Weighted Average Utilization

$$\frac{1992 \text{ Seedlings}}{(1740 \text{ acres X } .833) + (768 \text{ acres X } .68) + (512 \text{ acres X } .67) + (1,152 \text{ acres X } .595) + (358 \text{ acres X } .47)} \\ 4,530 \text{ acres}$$

= 70% Weighted Average Utilization

$$\frac{1992 \text{ Native}}{(410 \text{ acres X } .83) + (256 \text{ acres X } .80) + (4,147 \text{ acres X } .72) + (1,638 \text{ acres X } .62) + (1,613 \text{ acres X } .58) + (2,714 \text{ acres X } .53) + (768 \text{ acres X } .52) + (768 \text{ acres X } .51) + (486 \text{ acres X } .50) + (2,842 \text{ acres X } .46) + (6,144 \text{ acres X } .445) + (1,306 \text{ acres X } .43) + (3,226 \text{ acres X } .41)} \\ 26,318 \text{ acres}$$

= 53% Weighted Average Utilization

$$\frac{1991 \text{ Seedlings}}{(2,304 \text{ acres X } .87) + (922 \text{ acres X } .755) + (230 \text{ acres X } .71) + (742 \text{ acres X } .62) + (754 \text{ acres X } .63) + (602 \text{ acres X } .58) + (947 \text{ acres X } .53)} \\ 6,501 \text{ acres}$$

= 66% Weighted Average Utilization

$$\frac{1991 \text{ Native}}{(2,867 \text{ acres X } .67) + (1,536 \text{ acres X } .66) + (3,840 \text{ acres X } .643) + (614 \text{ acres X } .63) + (1,357 \text{ acres X } .60) + (4,505 \text{ acres X } .58) + (2,150 \text{ acres X } .57) + (921 \text{ acres X } .54) + (742 \text{ acres X } .53) + (4,378 \text{ acres X } .528) + (2,406 \text{ acres X } .513) + (2,688 \text{ acres X } .49) + (384 \text{ acres X } .47) + (1,766 \text{ acres X } .445) + (1,229 \text{ acres X } .41)} \\ 31,383 \text{ acres}$$

= 56% Weighted Average Utilization

$$\frac{1990 \text{ Seedlings}}{(2,100 \text{ acres X } .88) + (2,304 \text{ acres X } .86) + (2,508 \text{ acres X } .68)} \\ 6,912 \text{ acres}$$

= 80% Weighted Average Utilization

$$\frac{1990 \text{ Native}}{(3,047 \text{ acres X } .84) + (1,357 \text{ acres X } .82) + (14,849 \text{ acres X } .80) + (3,866 \text{ acres X } .74) + (3,021 \text{ acres X } .68) + (614 \text{ acres X } .64) + (538 \text{ acres X } .585) + (3,994 \text{ acres X } .58) + (7,168 \text{ acres X } .54) + (6,041 \text{ acres X } .50)} \\ 44,495 \text{ acres}$$

= 68% Weighted Average Utilization

APPENDIX D

	YEAR 1		YEAR 2	
	<u>FROM</u>	<u>TO</u>	<u>FROM</u>	<u>TO</u>
LINCOLN SEEDING	05/01	06/07	12/08	12/31
GRIMES NATIVE	06/08	06/30	11/16	12/07
HILLSIDE	07/01	07/31	08/16	09/15
WARM SPRINGS	08/01	08/31	07/16	08/15
TWIN SPRINGS	09/01	10/07	REST	
JACKRABBIT	10/08	11/15	09/16	10/15
GRIMES SEEDING	11/16	12/31	10/16	11/15
BEAN FLAT	REST		06/08	07/15
WOODS SEEDING	REST		05/01	06/07

	YEAR 3		YEAR 4	
	<u>FROM</u>	<u>TO</u>	<u>FROM</u>	<u>TO</u>
LINCOLN SEEDING	09/22	10/21	09/08	10/15
GRIMES NATIVE	08/22	09/21	08/08	09/07
HILLSIDE	05/22	06/15	10/16	11/2 1 /
WARM SPRINGS	REST		05/01	05/21
TWIN SPRINGS	05/01	05/21	11/2 1 λ	12/31
JACKRABBIT	06/16	07/15	REST	
GRIMES SEEDING	07/16	08/21	REST	
BEAN FLAT	12/01	12/31	05/22	06/30
WOODS SEEDING	10/22	11/30	07/01	08/07

	YEAR 5		YEAR 6	
	<u>FROM</u>	<u>TO</u>	<u>FROM</u>	<u>TO</u>
LINCOLN SEEDING	12/01	12/31	REST	
GRIMES NATIVE	11/08	11/30	REST	
HILLSIDE	REST		05/01	05/21
WARM SPRINGS	08/01	08/31	06/22	07/31
TWIN SPRINGS	07/01	07/31	05/22	06/21
JACKRABBIT	06/08	06/30	10/16	11/22
GRIMES SEEDING	05/01	06/07	11/23	12/31
BEAN FLAT	09/01	10/07	08/01	09/07
WOODS SEEDING	10/08	11/07	09/08	10/15

This illustration is limited to six years, however this sequence is intended to circulate continuously in this order. It should be understood that after year six one full cycle would be completed and the same sequence should be repeated for another six year period.

APPENDIX E

Key areas corresponding to critical fawning area for antelope
Fall - 1992

<u>PASTURE</u>	<u>LEGAL DESCRIPTION</u>	<u>% UTILIZATION</u>
<u>TWIN SPRINGS</u>	Stop: A - T19N, R50E, SEC.19	74
	B - T19N, R49E, SEC.36	70
	13- T18N, R50E, SEC.6-8	62
	14- T18N, R49E, SEC.1	61
	15- T19N, R50E, SEC.30-31	53
	33- T19N, R50E, SEC.19	24
	34- T19N, R50E, SEC.32	30
	35- T19N, R50E, SEC.19	<u>31</u>
		405/8
	AVERAGE = 51%	

<u>PASTURE</u>	<u>LEGAL DESCRIPTION</u>	<u>% UTILIZATION</u>
<u>S.HILLSIDE</u>	I - T19N, R49E, SEC.34	49
	31- T19N, R49E, SEC.22	35
	32- T19N, R49E, SEC.27	43
	46- T19N, R49E, SEC.29	<u>12</u>
		139/4
	AVERAGE = 35%	

<u>PASTURE</u>	<u>LEGAL DESCRIPTION</u>	<u>% UTILIZATION</u>
<u>JACKRABBIT</u>	C - T18N, R49E, SEC.11	83
	D - T18N, R49E, SEC.2	54
	E - T18N, R49E, SEC.3	39
	F - T18N, R49E, SEC.4	46
	G - T18N, R49E, SEC.4	30
	H - T19N, R49E, SEC.33	38
	11- T18N, R49E, SEC.10	20
	12- T18N, R49E, SEC. 2	<u>50</u>
		360/8
	AVERAGE = 45%	

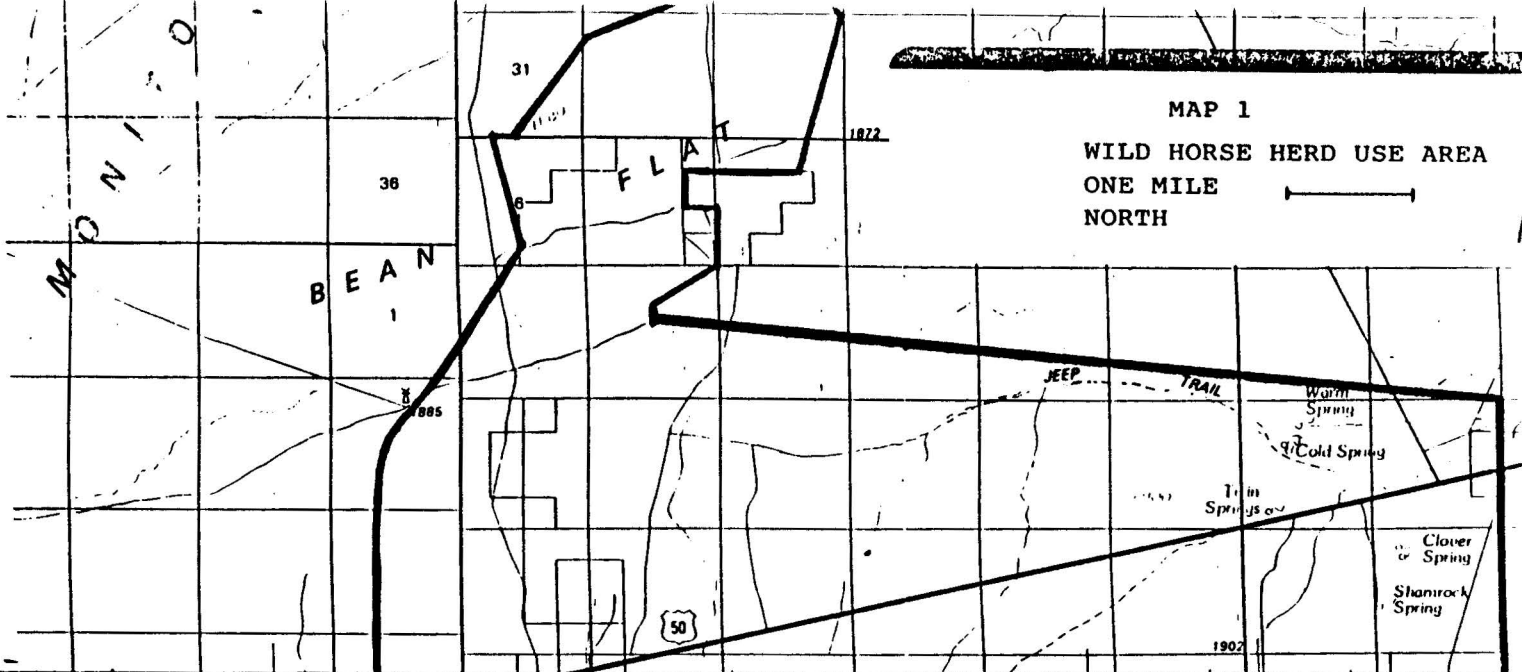
* Key species include: SIHY, ORHY, STCO4, ARARN, CHVI8, ATCO, CELA



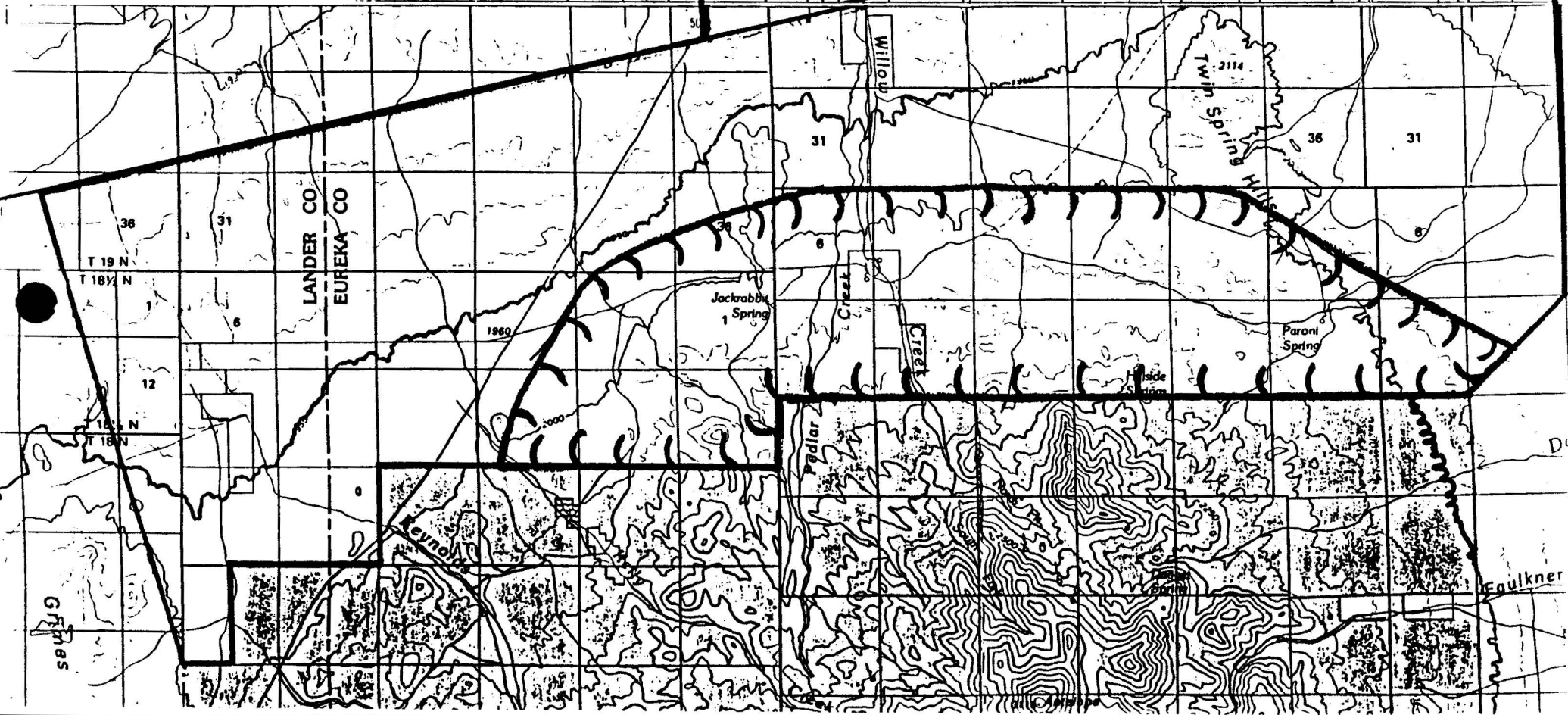
Wild Horse Herd Management Area


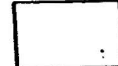
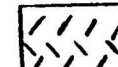




MAP 1

WILD HORSE HERD USE AREA
ONE MILE NORTH



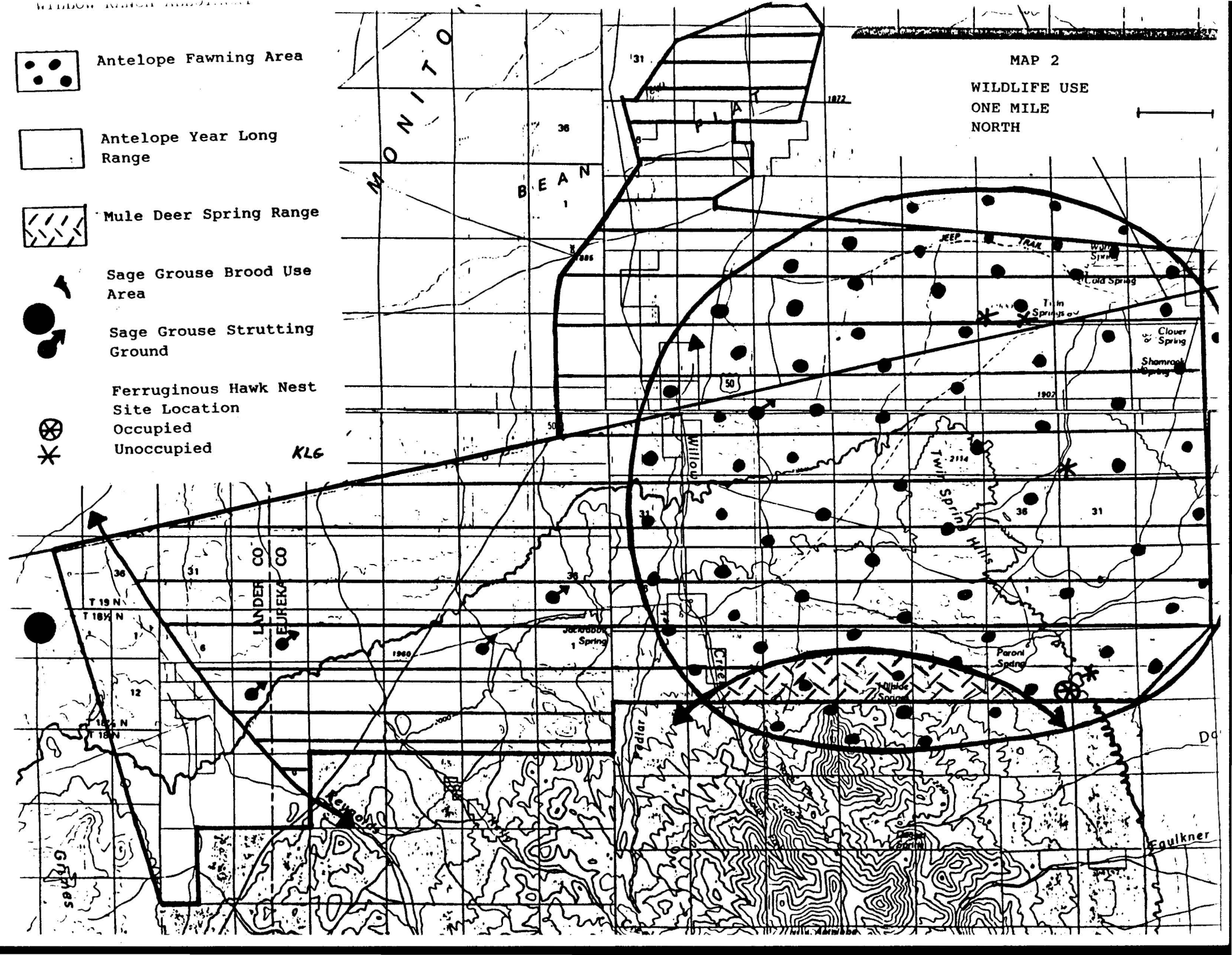
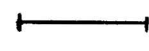
R. Oyster



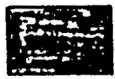
-  Antelope Fawning Area
-  Antelope Year Long Range
-  Mule Deer Spring Range
-  Sage Grouse Brood Use Area
-  Sage Grouse Strutting Ground
-  Ferruginous Hawk Nest Site Location Occupied
-  Ferruginous Hawk Nest Site Location Unoccupied

KLG

MAP 2
WILDLIFE USE
ONE MILE
NORTH



WILLOW RANCH ALLOTMENT



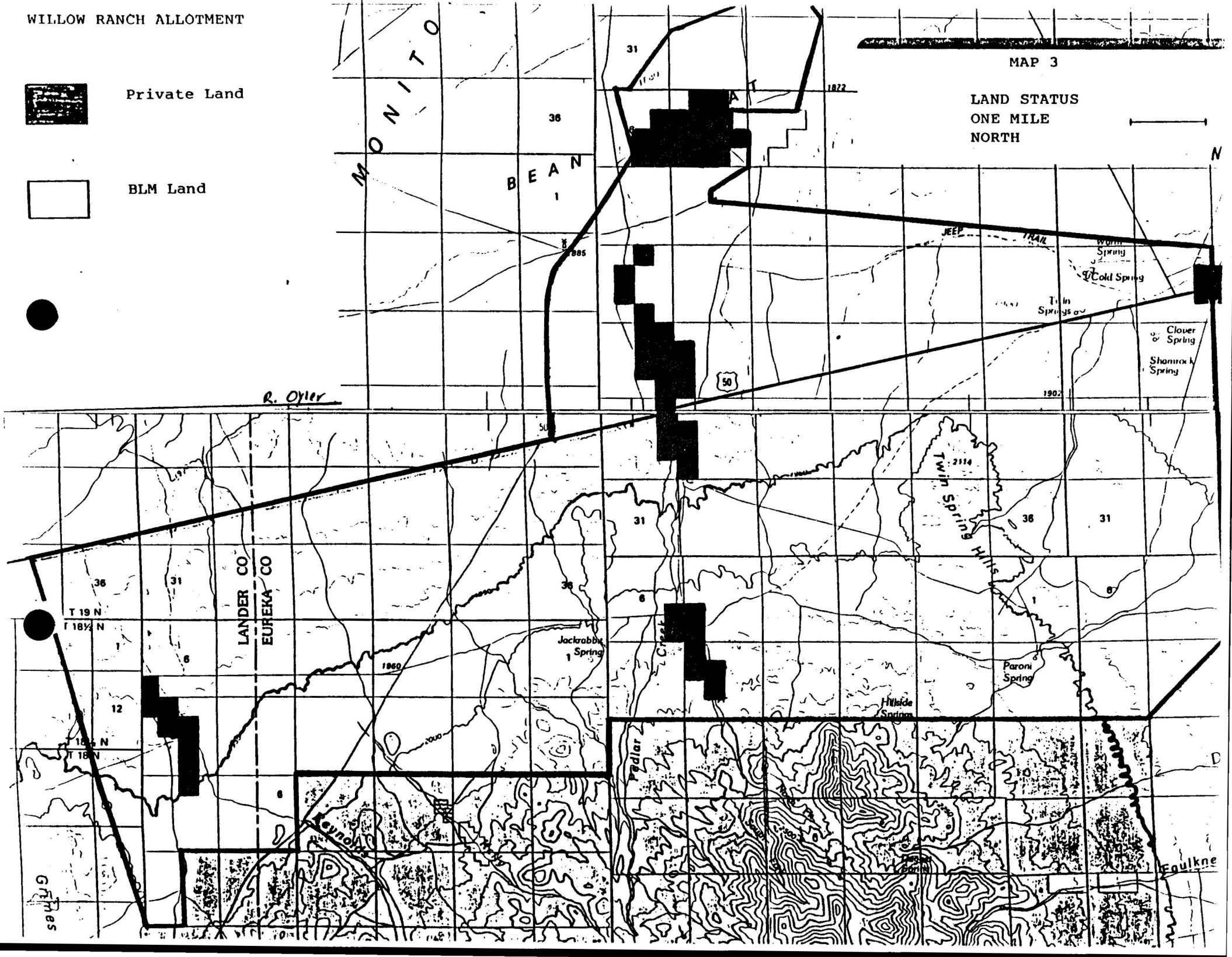
Private Land



BLM Land

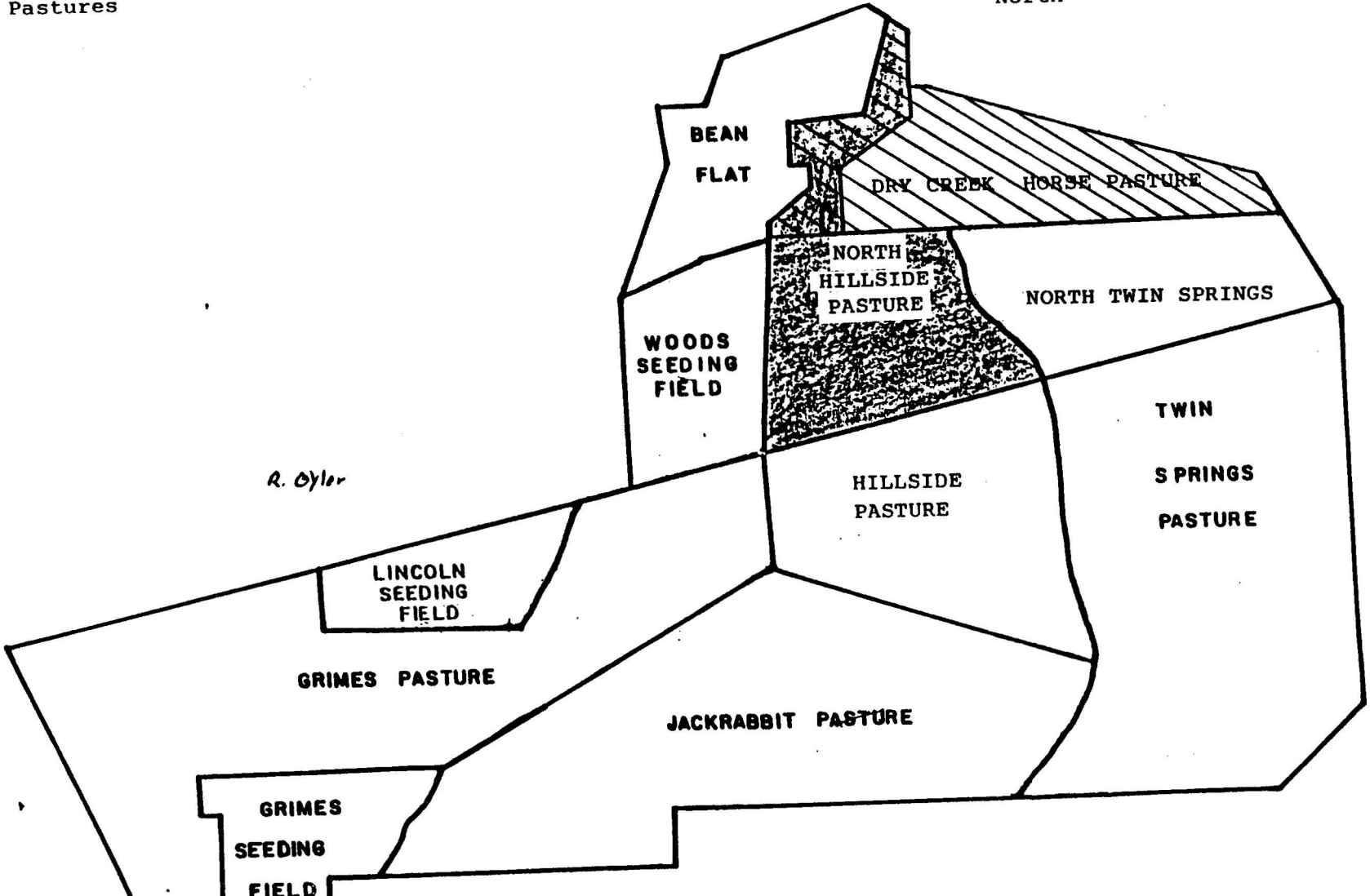
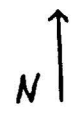
MAP 3

LAND STATUS
ONE MILE
NORTH



Pastures

Pastures and Seedings
North



R. Oylor



Portion of Dry Creek Allotment to be traded to Willow Ranch.



The portion of Dry Creek Allotment that will remain with the Dry Creek Allotment.



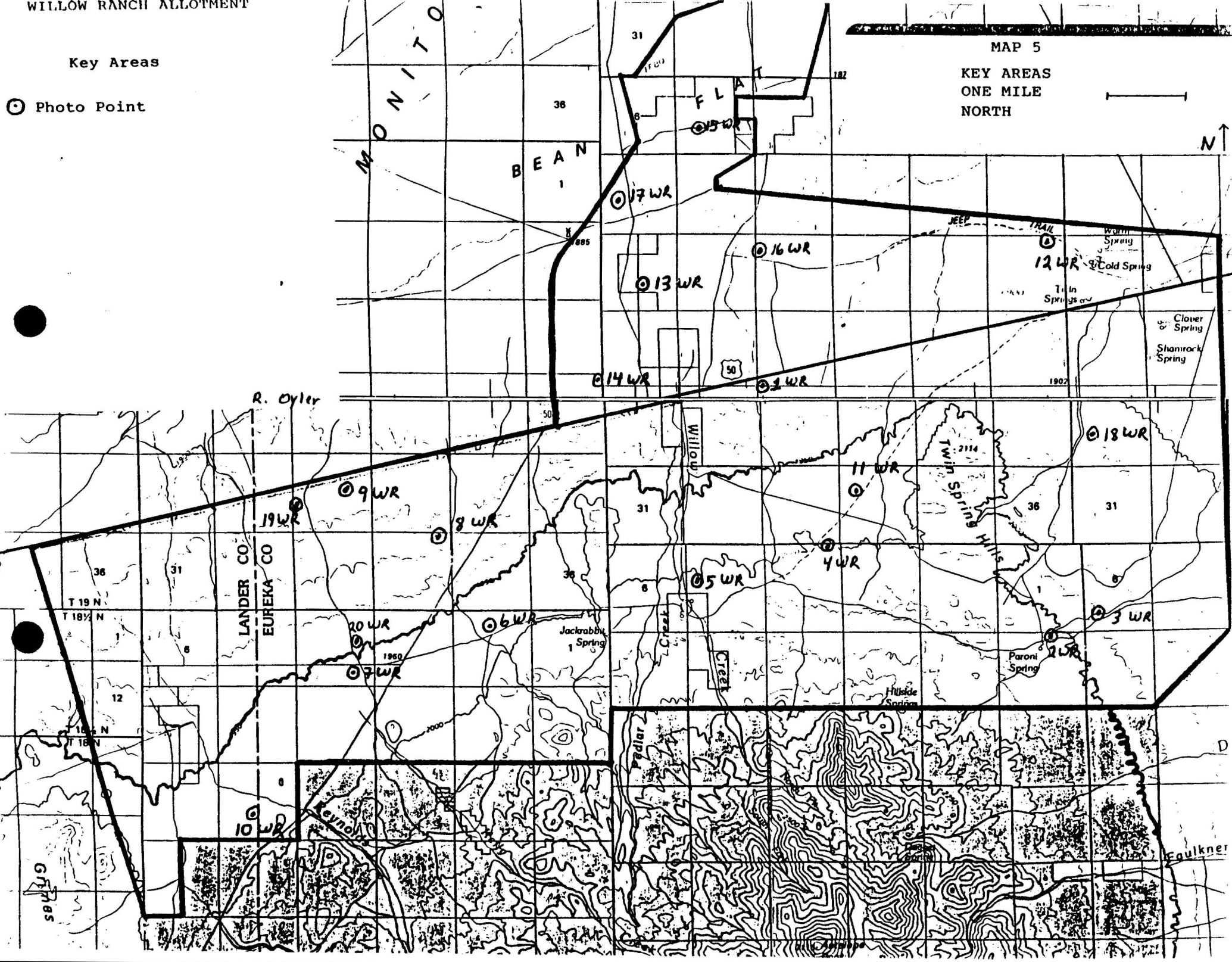
Willow Ranch portion to be traded to Dry Creek Ranch.

Key Areas

⊙ Photo Point

MAP 5

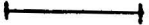
KEY AREAS
ONE MILE
NORTH



USE PATTERN MAP FALL 1992

MAP 6-A

USE PATTERN MAP
ONE MILE
NORTH



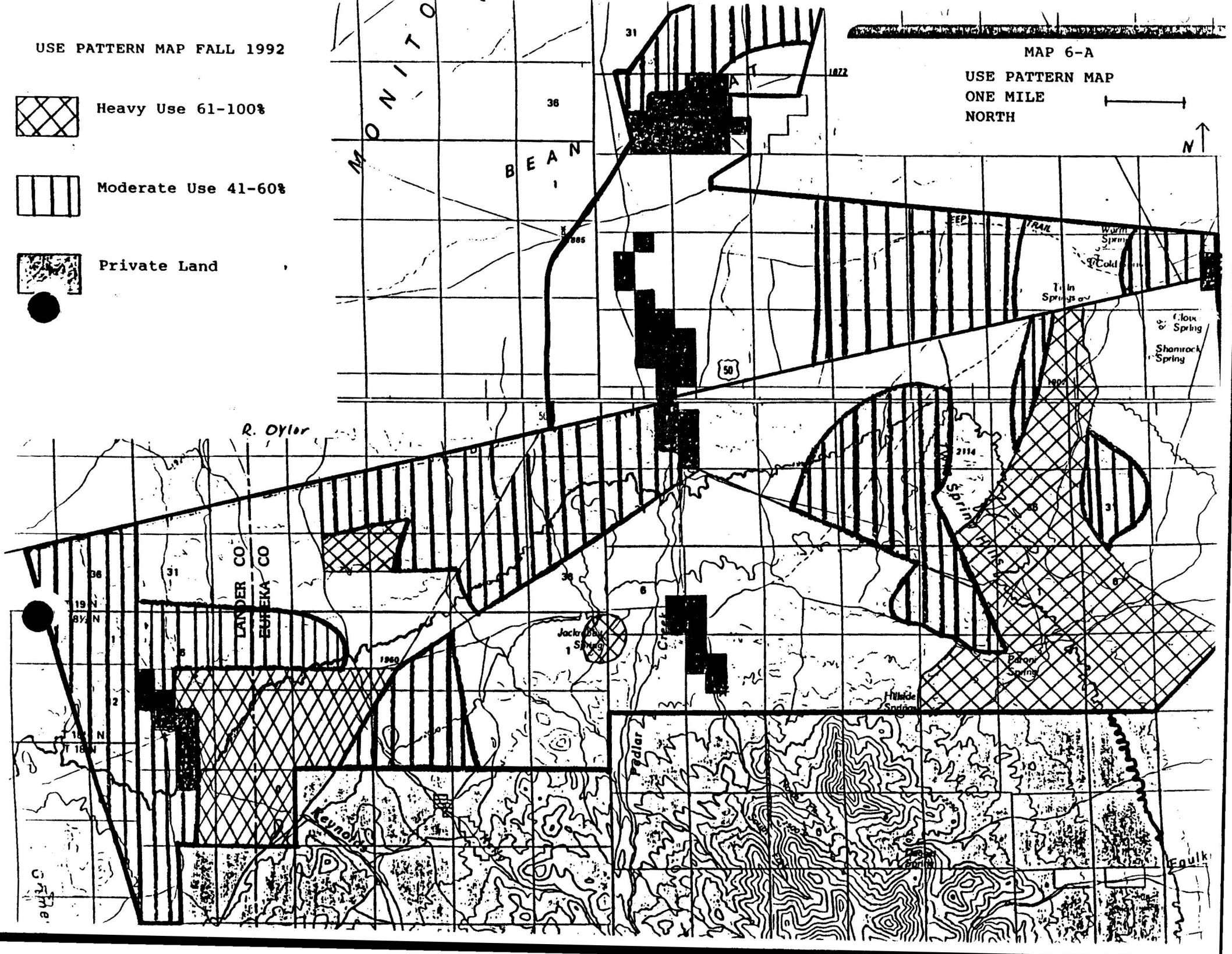
Heavy Use 61-100%



Moderate Use 41-60%



Private Land



USE PATTERN MAP FALL 1991



Heavy Use 61-100%



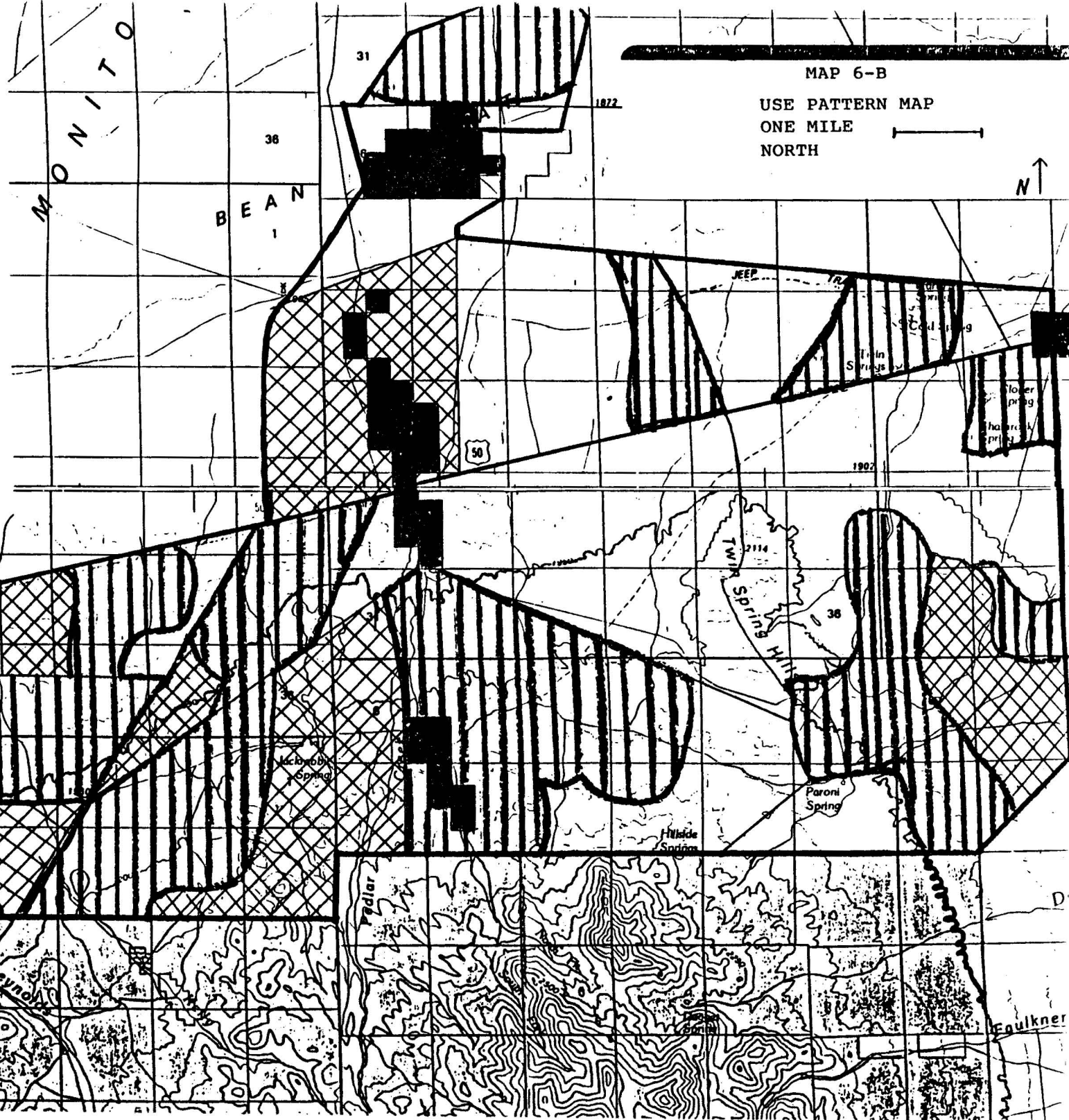
Moderate Use 41-60%



Private Land



MAP 6-B
USE PATTERN MAP
ONE MILE
NORTH



R. Oyer

LANDER CO
SHERIDAN CO

McRobb Spring

Paroni Spring

Hilde Spring

Grimes

Keiron

Pedlar

Eulknor

50

1902

1872

36

31

2114

38

D

USE PATTERN MAP MARCH 1991



Heavy Use 61-100%



Moderate Use 41-60%



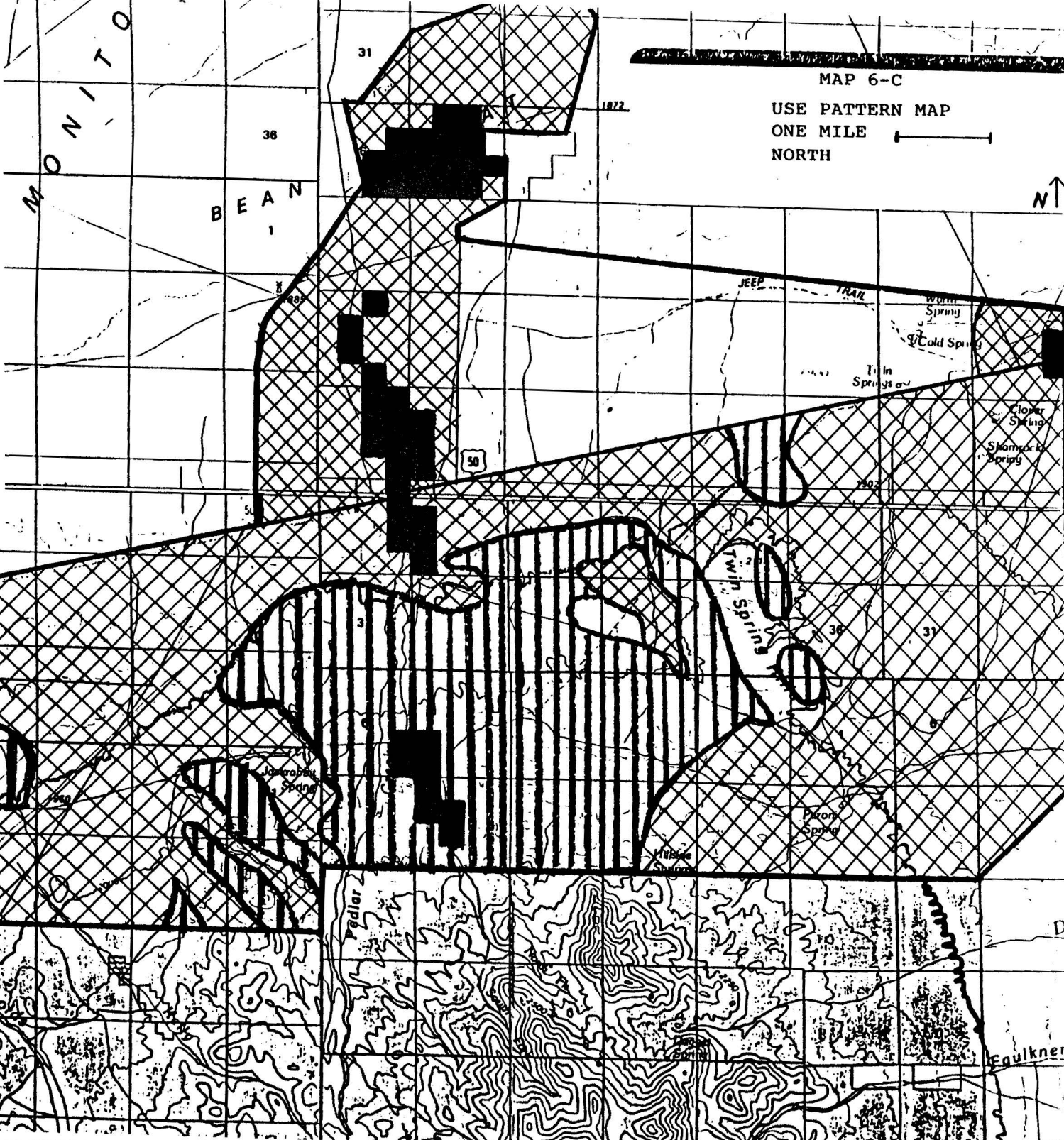
Private Land

MAP 6-C

USE PATTERN MAP

ONE MILE

NORTH



L. Munson

GRIMES

Eaukner