

Nevada State Office
Resource Program Management
February 10, 1966
1966-1

STAFF REPORT

1. Subject: Grazing trespass on Las Vegas Bombing and Gunnery Range.

2. Assumptions: Grazing trespass by domestic cattle and horses on military withdrawal exists and the authority or responsibility to take appropriate action is not clear.

3. Discussion:

a. The Las Vegas Bombing and Gunnery Range was initially established by Executive Order 8578 dated 10/29/40. The withdrawal order states that it takes precedence over, but shall not recind or revoke Executive Order 6910 withdrawing lands under the Taylor Grazing Act or Executive Order 7373 establishing the Desert Game Range. No provision was made for BLM or Fish and Wildlife entry or responsibility.

b. Public Land Order #9091 dated 1/12/42, modified Executive Order 8578 by describing and dividing the use to be made of areas north and south of the 1st Standard Parallel South and among other provisions provided the following:

(1) In connection with the use by the War Department of any of the land described herein reserved by Executive Order No. 7373 of May 30, 1936, the local army commandant shall, after consultation with the local representatives of the Fish and Wildlife Service and the Grazing Service, Department of the Interior, and to enable the field personnel of such services to carry out their normal patrol and maintenance activities, designate not less than two days a month, exclusive of Saturdays, Sundays, and legal holidays, on which there shall be no firing; and the representatives of said services shall have the right to use the Alamo road in Sheep Valley when on official business.

c. Public Land Order No. 2613 dated 2/16/62 amended Executive Order No. 8578 and Public Land Order No. 9091 and contains the following provisions:

(1) Use of the lands in the Desert Game Range by the Department of the Air Force shall be in accordance with the Memorandum of Understanding approved by the Secretary of the Air Force and the Acting Secretary of the Interior, on December 8, 1960, and January 20, 1961, respectively.

(2) The Department of the Interior shall retain jurisdiction of the mineral and vegetative resources of the lands.

(3) Authority to change the use specified in the orders of withdrawal, supra, or to grant rights to others to use the lands, including grants of leases, licenses, easements and rights-of-way but excluding permits revocable at will, is reserved to the Secretary of the Interior or his delegate.

The boundaries of the Las Vegas Bombing and Gunnery Range are not fenced and trespass use by domestic livestock exists to some extent along most of the boundary lines. The greatest grazing trespass use is probably in the Gold Flat and Kawich Valley areas where heavy use exists at least 35 miles within the exterior boundary of the withdrawal. This area also includes most of the Nevada Wildhorse Range which was established by the following documents:

(1) Memorandum of Understanding between Air Force, Bureau of Sport Fisheries and Wildlife, Bureau of Land Management and Department of the Interior signed by Elmer Bennett 1/20/61 and Dudley Sharp 12/8/60. This document is not on file in the Nevada State Office and is referred to by memo only.


(2) Cooperative Management Program between Nellis Air Force Base and Bureau of Land Management, NSO, dated June 1962.

(3) Cooperative Management Program between Nellis Air Force Base and Bureau of Land Management, NSO, dated June 1964 revising boundaries of the Wild Horse Range.

4. Conclusions: Prolonged and continued grazing trespass on the Bombing and Gunnery Range is detrimental to public relations of the Bureau of Land Management and our effects to properly manage the public lands adjacent to the withdrawal. The Bureau has been criticized by local individuals and the Nevada Game and Fish Department are deeply concerned regarding the damage to wildlife habitat.

5. Recommendations: It is recommended that the Director's Office initiate the necessary action between the Department of Defense and Department of Interior to determine the division of responsibility between the Air Force and Bureau of Land Management regarding the vegetative resources and control of grazing trespass on the entire Bombing and Gunnery Range. It is suggested that the control of grazing trespass be maintained as a cooperative effort between the two agencies due to the limited access by the Bureau and the detection facilities available to the Air Force.

One of the major grazing trespass areas encompasses the Nevada Wild Horse Range and a draft of a management plan is completed which if adopted would eliminate the problem on this area. It is recommended that this plan be reviewed by the Nevada State Director and upon approval be submitted to the Director for the necessary action required for initial implementation at the earliest possible date.



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