



ESMERALDA - SOUTHERN NYE
Rangeland Program Summary
Planning Area B

JUNE 1988

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
BUREAU OF LAND MANAGEMENT

Las Vegas District, Las Vegas, Nevada



United States Department of the Interior

BUREAU OF LAND MANAGEMENT LAS VEGAS DISTRICT OFFICE

4765 Vegas Drive
P.O. Box 26569
Las Vegas, Nevada 89126



IN REPLY REFER TO:

4100
(NV-050)

June 15, 1988

Dear Reader:

It is my pleasure to make available to you the initial Rangeland Program Summary (RPS) for the Las Vegas District's Esmeralda-Southern Nye Planning Area B.

The purpose of the RPS is to inform interested parties of the implementation of the rangeland program for the Esmeralda-Southern Nye Planning Area B. Also, the RPS provides a tracking mechanism between the Esmeralda-Southern Nye Planning Area B Record of Decision and grazing decisions to be issued, as related to the grazing management program.

Management of the public lands is a dynamic process with a great deal of specific on-the-ground decisions yet to be made. The next step in the land use planning process is the development of specific activity plans (Allotment Management Plans (AMPs), Habitat Management Plans (HMPs), etc.). Subsequent RPS updates will be issued to keep you informed of our management progress.

Public participation will play a vital role in developing future specific grazing management plans. Consequently, we encourage your continued participation and feel confident that together we can make our planning efforts meet our public and resource needs.

Sincerely,

Ben F. Collins
District Manager

RANGELAND PROGRAM SUMMARY

ESMERALDA - SOUTHERN NYE

Planning Area B

United States Department of the Interior
Bureau of Land Management
Las Vegas District, Las Vegas, Nevada

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SOUTH NYE RESOURCE MANAGEMENT PLAN
RANGELAND PROGRAM SUMMARY
STATELINE RESOURCE AREA

Previous Actions Relating to This Document

The Proposed Esmeralda-Southern Nye Resource Management Plan and Final Environmental Impact Statement (RMP/FEIS) Planning Area B was completed on October 4, 1985. It analyzed a proposed rangeland management program, along with several alternatives. Upon completion of the Esmeralda-Southern Nye RMP/FEIS, the district began the last phase of the planning process, which culminated with a Record of Decision. The Record of Decision was signed by the Nevada State Director on October 10, 1986 and outlines the decisions to implement the Esmeralda-Southern Nye Planning Area B Resource Management Plan. The activity plans (Allotment Management Plan (AMP), Herd Management Area Plan (HMAP), Habitat Management Plan (HMP)), the last phase of the management process, will determine allotment specific planning objectives. The Stateline Resource Area will be administering this area. There are no existing AMPs and one HMP (Ash Meadows HMP) at present, one proposed AMP, and an HMP near completion.

Introduction

This RPS is designed to inform interested parties of the process for determining the grazing management program for the RMP/FEIS area. The RPS is used to identify and inform the public of grazing allotment management objectives in three major categories which are: livestock, wildlife and wild horses. Additionally, the RPS identifies the specific kinds of monitoring studies used to measure management goals. Proposed range improvements are identified by allotment indicating the goals directed toward accomplishing the objectives of the land use plan. These projects are subject to change as specific management objectives by grazing allotment are developed through the activity plan process.

The RPS is an on-going process that entails four steps:

1. The initial RPS summarizes the Bureau of Land Management's proposals for grazing management and describes the current conditions and consultation process.
2. The consultation period, during which the management proposals will be reviewed by affected parties.
3. The issuance of individual grazing decisions or agreements.
4. The RPS updates will summarize the decisions issued and agreements reached, decisions remaining to be issued and other progress to date.

The Esmeralda-Southern Nye Planning Area B Record of Decision, dated October 10, 1986, selected the Preferred Alternative discussed in the Final RMP/EIS as the Bureau's proposed action. Modifications in grazing use will be based upon evaluating the results of rangeland monitoring. Changes will be made through decisions or agreements. Where no changes are required, the evaluation will

document the file record. Priorities for implementing management by allotment will be accomplished through the selective management approach, as specified in the Final Grazing Management Policy (Washington Office Instruction Memorandum No. 82-292, dated March 5, 1982). The criteria for the categorization of allotments is shown in the Draft Esmeralda-Southern Nye EIS, Appendix B, Table 1. Categorization was accomplished through the Planning Process and consultation with various groups involved in the process, as well as the livestock permittees.

The rangeland decisions from the South Nye Area B Record of Decision are as follows:

1. Authorize livestock use up to active grazing preference. However, it is anticipated not to exceed the 3 to 5 year average of 569 animal unit months (AUMs).
2. Conduct Section 7 consultation with the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service before issuing an ephemeral use permit on the Carson Slough and Grapevine-Rock Valley Allotments.
3. Livestock grazing on all allotments would be allowed if forage is available and if it can be grazed without detriment to riparian vegetation.
4. Close the Ash Meadows Allotment to livestock grazing.
5. Intensively manage the Mt. Stirling Allotment. Install two cattleguards in the Mt. Stirling seeding protective fence.
6. Manage wild horses and burros at current numbers based on the 1982 survey which identified a level of 25 wild horses and 22 wild burros in 3 herd areas.
7. Develop 3 herd management area plans in the Mt. Stirling, Amargosa and Last Chance Herd Management Areas.
8. Establish rangeland monitoring studies, as recommended by the 1984 Nevada Rangeland Monitoring Handbook. The studies are to determine if management objectives are being reached and what adjustments, if any, in livestock use, wild horse and burro numbers and wildlife reasonable numbers are necessary.
9. Manage current wildlife habitat initially to support current numbers with a goal of achieving reasonable numbers in both current and historical habitat.
10. Develop a habitat management plan for the Spring Mountain Habitat Management Area. Develop one spring source for wildlife in the HMP area.
11. Continue the implementation of the Ash Meadows Habitat Management Plan (HMP). The Ash Meadows HMP will be modified to include new data pertaining to sensitive, threatened or endangered species. In consultation/cooperation with Nye County, work toward achieving the

objectives outlined in the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service's Ash Meadows Land Protection Plan.

12. Support introduction of bighorn sheep into suitable habitat in the Bare Mountain Habitat Area.
13. Support reintroduction and introduction of bighorn sheep into historical and suitable habitat in the Johnnie and Spector Habitat Areas, respectively, pending further study.
14. Support augmentation of elk in current habitat in the Spring Mountain Habitat Area.

Objectives of the Programs

A. Livestock Grazing Objectives

1. Improve the condition of public rangelands to enhance the productivity for all rangeland values.
2. Initially, authorize livestock use at existing levels.

B. Wildlife Habitat Objectives

1. Improve the condition of public rangelands to enhance the productivity for all rangeland values.
2. Initially, manage wildlife habitat for existing number of big game, while recognizing reasonable numbers as a management goal.
3. Maintain or improve selected riparian and stream habitat to good or better condition.

C. Wild Horses and Burros Objectives

1. To improve the condition of public rangelands to enhance the productivity for all rangeland values.
2. Initially, manage wild horses and burros at current numbers and maintain their habitat in areas which constituted their habitat at the time the Wild and Free Roaming Horse and Burro Act became law in 1971.

For program objectives, by allotment see Table 1.

Management Implementation

The rangeland management program will be implemented through decisions or agreements where changes in use are needed to meet management objectives. These will be initiated through the consultation, cooperation and coordination process and the evaluation of monitoring data.

Adjustments in grazing use, if required, and the continuation of existing management will be based upon vegetation monitoring studies, Stateline Resource Area Coordinated Resource Management and Planning Committee (CRMP) recommendations, baseline inventory data, and/or a combination of these. These studies will be obtained from an intensive, coordinated monitoring effort in which all affected interest groups are encouraged to participate.

The formal process of consultation and coordination may involve the Stateline Resource Area CRMP committee or other such committees. The CRMP committee brings together all interests concerned with the management of resource uses, wildlife groups, wild horse and burro groups, conservation organizations, etc.

The consultation/coordination process would not necessarily require participation by the formal CRMP committee. The process may be accomplished in a more informal manner, initiated by either the BLM or the range user. Regardless of the approach, affected interests will be afforded the opportunity to actively participate in the process.

Priorities for Implementation

The selective management approach will be used to implement the rangeland management program. Selective management classifies allotments into three categories: "M" (Maintain), "I" (Improve), or "C" (Custodial).

Allotments were grouped into these categories according to their management needs, potential for improvement, and Bureau funding/manpower constraints. This categorization was arrived at by consultation with the affected interests. The order of priority for implementing intensive management in the form of activity plans, monitoring and range improvements is:

<u>Priority</u>	<u>Allotment Name</u>	<u>Selective Management Category</u>	<u>B/C</u>
1	Mount Stirling	I	1.3:1
2	Grapevine/Rock Valley	C	
3	Carson Slough	C	
4	Ash Meadow	N/A - Closed to Grazing	
5	County Line	C	

The "I" Category allotment will receive the highest priority of development of intensive grazing management. Since there are no "M" Category allotments, the "C" Category allotment will receive second priority.

Benefit/cost analysis (B/C) is included to assist in setting priorities for range improvement investment.

Sageram, the computer program used to compute the benefit/cost, provides a consistent means of measuring the relative economic efficiency of investment proposals among allotments and provides information needed to rank range improvement/investment proposals.

Resource improvement plans for wildlife, wild horses or watershed, or other improvements not funded out of range betterment funds, may be developed independently from the allotment categorization rankings, but will be coordinated so as to facilitate a more concerted and effective effort.

Categories of allotments can be changed should it become necessary. If the "I" allotment, for example, should have all of the range improvements completed, stocking rates and seasons of use are correct, condition is satisfactory and other management objectives are being met, the allotment could be reclassified as an "M" allotment. Conversely should a "M" allotment appear to be deteriorating and management objectives are not being met it could be reclassified as an "I". The goal is to move as many allotments into the "M" Category as possible.

Implementation of Grazing Use Adjustments

Grazing use adjustment, if necessary, will be implemented either through agreement with the permittee or decision. Both will be based upon the evaluation of monitoring data. Specific decisions or agreements, to make grazing use adjustments, will be identified and explained in subsequent RPS updates.

Four allotments are classified as ephemeral (Grapevine/Rock Valley, Carson Slough, Ash Meadow, and County Line) and currently do not have a grazing permit. Of these, Ash Meadow is closed to grazing so no future livestock grazing use adjustments or livestock grazing is planned.

Upon receipt of a grazing application, by a qualified applicant, grazing on the Carson Slough and Grapevine-Rock Valley allotment will be authorized using the following criteria:

1. After field inspection, sufficient forage for livestock is determined to be available.
2. The management objectives and/or constraints identified in Table 1, or those identified at the activity planning level are met.

If the above two criteria are met, a Section 7 Consultation with the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service will be initiated due to the presence of threatened or endangered plant species.

The County Line Allotment will be managed in accordance with the Special Rule on Ephemeral Range (Federal Register, Vol 33, No. 238, December 7, 1968) and the objectives and constraints in Table 1.

Necessary grazing use adjustments on the one perennial allotment, Mount Sterling, will be implemented as monitoring data becomes available. Where monitoring data exists to support grazing use adjustments and an agreement cannot be reached, a decision will be issued.

Any adjustment in grazing use may include, but is not limited to, season-of-use, animal numbers, and kind/class of grazing animals.

Specific decisions or agreements for grazing use adjustments will be identified and explained in subsequent RPS updates.

Progress of Program Implementation

Table 1 shows the existing use, management objectives, monitoring plan components, monitoring initiated and planned, as well as planned and completed range and wildlife improvements for the five allotments and for the area outside recognized allotments.

RESOURCE MONITORING AND EVALUATION

The objectives of the monitoring program are to gather adequate data that can be used in the planning process, in the development of activity plans (AMPs, HMPs, HMAPs, etc.), and in evaluating the effectiveness and impacts of land management decisions. The monitoring program will include wildlife, range, riparian, and wild horse studies, and the data collected will include actual use, utilization, climatic and condition and trend studies.

The Nevada Rangeland Monitoring Handbook (1984) monitoring procedures outline the minimum methods that will be used in monitoring. BLM Technical Reports 4400-1 through 4400-4, 4400-7, and NSO Manual Supplements 6630 and 4730 present additional monitoring methods which may be deemed appropriate, depending on the issues involved and management objectives. The Las Vegas District Monitoring Plan (1985) will be used for guidance and as a procedural reference. Actual use, to the extent possible, for big game species and seasonal use information will be provided by the Nevada Department of Wildlife.

The following are the major rangeland elements to be monitored.

A. Plants

Ecological status is use-independent and is defined as the present state of the vegetation and soil protection of an ecological site in relation to the potential natural community for that site. It is an expression of the relative degree to which the kinds, proportions, and amounts of plants in the present plant community resemble that of the potential natural community. It is an ecological rating of the present community.

Ecological status transects will be re-evaluated upon measurement of a statistically significant change in trend data to determine progress towards accomplishment of management objectives. In addition, those portions of the resource area that are covered by an Order 3 SCS Soil Survey, where ecological site descriptions have been assigned, will be

inventoried on an allotment wide basis to determine ecological status. The priorities for completing the allotment specific ecological status surveys will be the same as those displayed in the "Priorities for Implementation" Section.

Trend - Studies will be conducted periodically, based on need and priorities, on selected upland and significant riparian areas to determine changes in key plant species and frequency to determine progress in meeting vegetation objectives.

Utilization - Forage and browse utilization studies will be scheduled and conducted to determine the pattern of grazing use and amount of vegetation removed by grazing animals.

B. Animals

Livestock - Actual use data will be obtained from the permittee annually. These records will reflect the number and class of animals grazing each pasture and the dates livestock graze there. Additional livestock counts will be made periodically on an as-needed-basis.

Wildlife - Use data will continue to be periodically updated from Nevada Department of Wildlife reports on animal populations and seasonal use patterns.

Wild Horses - Wild horses will be censused periodically. Additional monitoring will be initiated to determine areas of use, seasonal movement patterns, sex ratios, and other facets of population dynamics so that it can be determined if management objectives are being met.

C. Water

Water quality monitoring will be continued in accordance with BLM policies and Sections 208 and 313 of the Federal Clean Water Act.

D. Weather

Weather data will be analyzed to estimate the effects of precipitation on herbage yields.

RANGELAND PROGRAM SUMMARY UPDATES

Rangeland Program Summary updates will be issued as significant changes in the implementation of the Rangeland Program occur.

The rangeland program summary update will:

- a. update the resource conditions and management actions that have been taken.
- b. summarize the agreements negotiated to date.

- c. summarize the decisions and agreements remaining to be issued.
- d. explain other progress made to date
 - Evaluations supporting continuation of existing management
 - CRMP status
 - range improvements
 - grazing systems implemented
 - monitoring
- e. discuss significant changes from the grazing program described in this RPS and give the reason for those changes, and
- f. discuss the range program outlook.

APPROPRIATIONS

The development of the grazing management for the Esmeralda-Southern Nye Planning Area B will depend on adequate appropriations and manpower for implementation.

For additional information about the Rangeland Program, please contact Runore Wycoff, Stateline Resource Area Manager, Las Vegas District Office, Bureau of Land Management, 4765 Vegas Drive, P.O. Box 26569, Las Vegas, Nevada 89126 or call (702) 388-6403.

PROTEST AND APPEAL PROCEDURES

Individuals or groups who feel that their interest may be adversely affected by proposed grazing decisions have the right of protest and appeal to the District Manager, Bureau of Land Management, 4765 Vegas Drive, P.O. Box 26569, Las Vegas, Nevada 89126.

TABLE 1

Allotment/Operator	Selective Management Category	LIVESTOCK		WILDLIFE ^{2/}		WILD HORSES			RANGE IMPROVEMENT PROJECTS			WILDLIFE IMPROVEMENT		
		Initial Stocking Level Active AUMs 1/	Management Objectives	Existing Use (AUMs)	Management Objectives	Existing Use (AUMs)	Management Objectives 4/	Existing Monitoring Plan Components 3/	Scheduled Monitoring Actions	Initially Proposed Units	Proposed Type	Completed Units	Activity Plans	Initially Proposed Units
Mount Stirling Ted Frehner	I	1500	<p>In the long term, provide forage to sustain 1500 AUMs for livestock grazing and improve ecological status from mid to late on 6,398 acres.</p> <p>In short term, maintain/enhance native and seeded vegetation with utilization levels not to exceed moderate use (40%-60%) on key species.</p> <p>Enhance the current forage condition on the non-native range, through improved grazing management of the Mount Stirling Burn.</p> <p>Improve the Forage Resource Value Rating on 1140 acres from fair to good condition.</p>	123 Deer 0 Bighorn Sheep 40 Elk	<p>Maintain or improve mule deer and elk habitat to good condition as determined by BLM manual 6630 and ensure that key species utilization does not exceed an average of 50% use of the current year's growth. Initially manage for a reasonable number of 405 AUMs for mule deer and 198 AUMs for elk. Maintain habitat condition for that portion of the grazing allotment that overlaps the Last Chance HMA (site 7) at a current weighted value of 144 points as determined by bighorn sheep habitat evaluation procedures. Manage appropriate desert bighorn sheep habitat in the Spring Mountains to good condition (at least 160 weighted points) to support the reintroduction of desert bighorn sheep once an HMP is written. Initial management levels should support at least 598 AUMs for desert bighorn. Longterm management levels for all big game numbers will be based upon the carrying capacity of the habitat that still provides maintenance of good habitat conditions.</p> <p>Maintain and/or improve riparian vegetation condition to the good condition and ensure that water is available to wildlife at the following springs: Bill Smith, Big Timber, Crystal, Siebert, Gold, Grapevine, Horse Shutem, Jaybird, Kwichup, Rainbow, and Rock Springs. Utilization levels should not exceed 50% of the current years growth on key forage and riparian species.</p> <p>Maintain and/or improve the Mt. Stirling burn/seeding to the good condition class as determined by BLM Manual 6630 and ensure that utilization levels do not exceed an average of 50% use on key forage species.</p>	189 Burros 72 Horses	<p>Maintain Management Levels at 12 burros (108 AUMs) within the Last Chance Herd Area.</p> <p>Maintain Management Levels of 9 burros (81 AUMs) and 6 horses (72 AUMs) in the Mount Stirling Herd Area.</p>	<p>Range: Utilization Frequency Trend</p> <p>Actual Use Ecological Status</p> <p>Wildlife: Census Survey (NDDW) Utilization Frequency</p> <p>Horses and Burros: Census</p>	<p>Yearly Completed every 3-5 years</p> <p>Yearly 1992</p> <p>Every 3-5 years</p> <p>1-3 years</p> <p>3-5 years</p> <p>Every 3-5 years</p>	2	Cattleguards	0	AMP (Proposed) HMP (Southern Nye Proposed) HMP (Spring Mtn. Proposed) HMMP (Proposed) Last Chance and Mount Stirling)	Small game to be determined in activity plans.

Allotment/Operator	Selective Management Category	Initial Stocking Level Active AUMs 1/	LIVESTOCK		WILDLIFE2/		WILD HORSES		Existing Monitoring Plan Components 3/	Scheduled Monitoring Actions	RANGE IMPROVEMENT PROJECTS			WILDLIFE IMPROVEMENT		
			Management Objectives	Existing Use (AUMs)	Management Objectives	Existing Use (AUMs)	Management Objectives	Existing Use (AUMs)			Management Objectives	Initially Proposed Units	Proposed Type	Completed Units	Activity Plans	Initially Proposed Units
Grapevine/Rock Valley (Unleased)	C		<p>No livestock grazing Use is occurring nor has there been any for the past 10 years or more.</p> <p>Upon receipt of a grazing application:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1) Determine if forage is available to accommodate use applied for. 2) Determine if use can be accommodate without detriment to riparian resources. 3) Determine if use is compatible with the T&E plant requirements. 4) Perform Section 7 Consultation with U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service. <p>In short-term, maintain or enhance native vegetation with utilization levels not to exceed the moderate range (40-60%).</p> <p>Restrict spring grazing on specific sites to comply with phenological development and physiological requirements of the T & E plants present.</p>	<p>Use is occurring nor has there been any for the past 10 years or more.</p> <p>Upon receipt of a grazing application:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1) Determine if forage is available to accommodate use applied for. 2) Determine if use can be accommodate without detriment to riparian resources. 3) Determine if use is compatible with the T&E plant requirements. 4) Perform Section 7 Consultation with U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service. <p>In short-term, maintain or enhance native vegetation with utilization levels not to exceed the moderate range (40-60%).</p> <p>Restrict spring grazing on specific sites to comply with phenological development and physiological requirements of the T & E plants present.</p>	<p>Maintain and/or improve to good Condition 15 acres of saline meadow riparian habitat. Overall grazing utilization not to exceed 50% on the 15 acre of saline meadows.</p> <p>Improve and/or maintain to good condition the riparian meadows supported by Grapevine and Last Chance Springs by restricting use not to exceed the 50% level and establishing appropriate season of use.</p> <p>Maintain and/or improve to good condition 60 acres of endangered critical plant habitat by incorporating appropriate stipulations as determined through formal Sec. 7 consultation.</p> <p>In cooperation with the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, manage the area consistent with the goals and objectives of the Ash Meadows memorandum of understanding (MOU) proposed between BLM and the FWS.</p> <p>The Ash Meadows HMP will be implemented in accordance with the above MOU.</p>	<p>Range: Actual Use</p> <p>Vegetative utilization not to exceed the moderate range (40-60%) on the 15 acres of Saline riparian habitat, and the 60 acres of endangered plant habitat.</p>	<p>Yearly</p> <p>None established at this time.</p>									<p>HMP (Ash Meadow) To be determined in HMP.</p>

Allotment/Operator	Selective Management Category	LIVESTOCK		WILDLIFE ^{2/}		WILD HORSES		RANGE IMPROVEMENT PROJECTS				WILDLIFE IMPROVEMENT	
		Initial Stocking Level Active AUMs 1/	Management Objectives	Existing Use (AUMs)	Management Objectives	Existing Use (AUMs)	Management Objectives	Existing Monitoring Plan Components 3/	Scheduled Monitoring Actions	Initially Proposed Units	Proposed Type	Completed Units	Activity Plans
Carson Slough Unleased	C		<p>No livestock grazing Use is occurring nor has there been any for the past 10 years or more.</p> <p>Upon receipt of a grazing application:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1) Determine if forage is available to accomodate use applied for. 2) Determine if use can be accomadated without determent to riparian resources. 3) Detrmine if use is compatible with the T&E plant requirements. 4) Perform Section 7 Consultation with U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service. <p>In short-term, maintain or enhance native vegetation with utilization levels not to exceed the moderate range (40-60 % on key species.</p>		<p>Maintain or improve to good condition 63 acres of wet meadow, and 430 acres of saline meadow riparian habitat. Limit livestock grazing to 50% utilization on key species.</p> <p>Maintain and or improve 620 acres of endangered critical plant habitat to good condition by incorporating stipulations as determined through formal Sec. 7 consultation.</p> <p>Improve or maintain habitat to good condition for the riparian meadow supported by the following five springs or spring complexes: Crystal, Fairbanks, Fire, Longstreet, and Rogers Spring by maintaining grazing use not to exceed 50% on key species.</p> <p>In cooperation with the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, manage the area consistant with the goals and objectives of the Ash Meadows memorandum of understanding (MOU) proposed between BLM and the FWS. The Ash Meadows HMP will be implemented in accordance with the above MOU.</p>		<p>Range: Actual Use</p> <p>Utilization</p>	<p>Yearly</p> <p>No studies at present time.</p>				HMP (Proposed-Ash Meadows)	To be determined in HMP.

<u>Allotment/Operator</u>	<u>Selective Management Category</u>	<u>LIVESTOCK</u>		<u>WILDLIFE^{2/}</u>		<u>WILD HORSES</u>		<u>Scheduled Monitoring Actions</u>	<u>RANGE IMPROVEMENT PROJECTS</u>			<u>WILDLIFE IMPROVEMENT</u>	
		<u>Initial Stocking Level Active AUMs 1/</u>	<u>Management Objectives</u>	<u>Existing Use (AUMs)</u>	<u>Management Objectives</u>	<u>Existing Use (AUMs)</u>	<u>Management Objectives</u>		<u>Existing Monitoring Plan Components 3/</u>	<u>Initially Proposed Units</u>	<u>Proposed Type</u>	<u>Completed Units</u>	<u>Activity Plans</u>
Ash Meadow Unleased			Closed to livestock grazing		<p>Do not allow over 50% utilization on meadows or proposed endangered plant habitat in order to achieve:</p> <p>(1) Maintain or improve 12 acres of wet meadow riparian habitat to good condition.</p> <p>(2) Maintain or improve 60 acres of proposed endangered condition plant habitat to good condition.</p> <p>In cooperation with the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, manage the area consistent with the goals and objectives of the Ash Meadows Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) proposal between BLM and the FWS. The Ash Meadows HMP will be implemented in accordance with the above MOU.</p>			Wildlife: Habitat Condition Studies	Within 5 years			HMP (Ash Meadows)	To be determined in HMP.

Allotment/Operator	Selective Management Category	Initial Stocking Level Active AUMs 1/	LIVESTOCK	WILDLIFE/	WILD HORSES	Existing Monitoring Plan Components 3/	Scheduled Monitoring Actions	RANGE IMPROVEMENT PROJECTS			WILDLIFE IMPROVEMENT		
			Management Objectives	Existing Use (AUMs)	Management Objectives			Existing Use (AUMs)	Management Objectives	Initially Proposed Units	Proposed Type	Completed Units	Activity Plans
County Line Unleased	C		<p>No livestock grazing Use is occurring nor has there been any for the past 10 years or more.</p> <p>Upon receipt of a grazing application:</p> <p>1) Determine if forage is available to accommodate use applied for.</p> <p>2) Determine if use can be accommodated without detriment to riparian resources.</p> <p>3) Determine if use is compatible with the T&E plant requirements.</p> <p>In short-term, maintain or enhance native vegetation with utilization levels not to exceed the moderate range (40-60%) on key species.</p>	<p>Vegetative utilization levels will not exceed 50% on meadow and riparian habitat.</p>		<p>Range: Actual Use</p> <p>Utilization</p>	<p>Yearly</p> <p>1-3 Years</p>						

LIVESTOCK			WILDLIFE ^{2/}		
<u>Allotment/Operator</u>	<u>Selective Management Category</u>	<u>Initial Stocking Level Active AUMs 1/</u>	<u>Management Objectives</u>	<u>Existing Use (AUMs)</u>	<u>Management Objectives</u>
Unallotted Areas within Planning Area B (see Record of Decision for map of these areas).			No grazing use allotted.		<p>Reestablish and manage for 143 desert bighorn sheep in the Last Chance HMA by year 2004. Maintain 8140 acres of bighorn sheep habitat at sites 1 and 7 at the current weighted average of 156 and 144 points respectively. Improve habitat conditions of 24,740 acres of bighorn habitat (sites 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 8 and 9) from the current weighted average of 157 points to 188 points by year 1995.</p> <p>Establish and manage for 129 desert bighorn sheep in the Specter HMA by the year 2005. Maintain 1,545 acres at Striped Hill (site 8) at the weighted point value of 112 points. Improve 21,915 acres of bighorn sheep habitat throughout the rest of the HMA from a weighted point value of 129 points to 190 points by year 1995.</p> <p>Establish and manage for 95 desert bighorn sheep in the Bare Mtn. HMA by the year 2010. Improve 20,400 acres of desert bighorn sheep habitat from an overall point value of 165 points to 190 points by the year 2000.</p> <p>For the areas affected, evaluate and modify the objectives for T & E plants, and bring them into compliance with the objectives of the Ash Meadows National Refuge.</p> <p>Maintain existing desert tortoise habitat at the present condition. Within herd management areas limit utilization to 40-60% use on key forage species.</p>

Existing Use (AUMs)	WILD HORSES		Scheduled Monitoring Actions	RANGE IMPROVEMENT PROJECTS			WILDLIFE IMPROVEMENT	
	Management Objectives 4/	Existing Monitoring Plan Components 3/		Initially Proposed Units	Proposed Type	Completed Units	Activity Plans	Initially Proposed Units
109 Burros 228 Horses	Maintain Management levels of 12 burros (108 AUMs) within the Last Chance Herd Area.	Wildlife: Census Survey (NDOW) by end of third year. Range: Ecological Status Utilization	1-3 Year 1992 1-3 years				HMAP (Proposed)	
	Maintain Management levels of 19 horses (228 AUMs), and 1 burro (12 AUMs) in the Amargosa Herd Area.	Wild Horses: Census	2-5 years					

- 1 The initial stocking levels for livestock are active grazing preference AUMs. These stocking levels are subject to adjustments either formally or informally through the cooperation, coordination and consultation process and monitoring results.
- 2 Reasonable and existing numbers, as determined in conjunction with Nevada Department of Wildlife (NDOW), were provided by big game use areas (i.e., DW-1). Reasonable and existing numbers by allotment are mathematical calculations based on the percent of big game use areas occurrence within each allotment. This includes the assumption that reasonable numbers are uniformly distributed throughout the use area (biologically, this does not occur in big game populations). AUM demand is provided for analysis purposes only.
- 3 The monitoring plan components were identified through the land use planning effort. The "I" category allotment monitoring scheme will be more intensive than that developed for the "C" category allotments. This is in accordance with the Final Grazing Management Policy.
- 4 The specific vegetation use level objectives in the Wild Horse and Burros Management Areas are the same as those identified for Livestock/Wildlife in each allotment in which there is a Wild Horse and Burro management objective.

Additional Wild Horse and Burro habitat objectives that apply to each allotment where such use occurs are as follows:

Improve and/or maintain the free-roaming behavior of Wild Horses and Burros by protecting and preserving the integrity of home ranges.

Improve and/or maintain Wild Horse and Burro habitat by assuring that all waters remain open to access by the animals consistent with the attainment of the objectives identified above.