Appendix #2

VYA PMU

Existing BLM Decisions

Cowhead/Massacre Planning Unit (northern portion)

General Decision #3: Ensure that moderate use (40% to 60%) is the upper limit for livestock use for major use areas on the native range. For specific areas within subunits 2 and 3, such as critical mountain brush types, light use will be the upper limit for livestock use.

General Decision #4: Do not allow livestock salting on springs, meadows, streams, and aspen areas.

General Decision #5: Fence meadows and aspen stands which contain significant wildlife values, such as sage grouse, and provide water outside the fences for livestock, wildlife, and wild horses. Allow prescribed grazing on these areas to maintain vegetative vigor and diversity. Provide at least one growing season of rest every two years.

General Decision #6: Encourage free use or commercial permits within Subunits 2, 3, and 4 to meet local demand for fence posts, poles, and fuel wood.

General Decision #13: Allow miscellaneous rights-of-ways within Subunits 2, 3, and 4, consistent with environmental concerns, as needs are identified by local government, citizen groups, and individuals.

General Decision #15: Utilize fire as a range betterment tool.

General Decision #16: Range Improvement Development

A. Water Developments

1. Fence and design with a buffer brush strip around the perimeter, those perennial reservoirs which have the potential for wetland development. Provide water outside the fenced areas.
2. Unless precluded by topography, fence springs as well as the meadows around the springs. Leave some water from each spring at the spring source and at the ground level for wildlife, and locate watering troughs far enough from riparian habitat to prevent trampling.
3. Provide water from selected wells for wildlife and wild horses during years when acres are rested from livestock grazing.
4. Provide a rock ramp in all water tanks to allow wildlife to safely use water tanks without risk of drowning.

B. Fencing

1. Keep fencing to the absolute minimum needed to complete the required job.

C. Land Treatments

1. All Areas
   (b) Sage Grouse: Leave 100-yard buffer zones around meadows and along drainages.

(d) Other: Rest land treatment areas from livestock grazing until the area manager determines that the desired plant response is achieved.

2. Area A (Massacre Mountain (High Rock Canyon) Allotment)

3. Area B (Massacre Mountain (Mtn and Grassy), Wall Canyon East, Massacre Lakes, Nut Mountain, Sand Creek (49 Seeding) Allotments)
(a) Big Game: (2) allow spraying only in early spring to avoid killing bitterbrush on deer winter range; (3) ensure that treatment areas have leave areas of 20% to 40% of the total area.

(b) Sage Grouse: Ensure that all land treatments adhere to Nevada Department of Wildlife, "Guidelines for Vegetal Control Programs in Sage Grouse Habitats in Nevada (1969, revised 1972)."

(c) Allow land treatments (spraying or burning) on sites with high productive potential which do not respond to grazing management within a reasonable time.

4. Area C (Nut Mountain (Cavalry Camp Seeding), Massacre Mountain (Massacre Bench and Ranch), Bull Creek Allotments)
(a) Big Game: (1) ensure that treatment areas have leave areas of 10% to 20% of the total area.

(b) Sage Grouse: Ensure that all land treatments adhere to Nevada Department of Wildlife, "Guidelines for Vegetal Control Programs in Sage Grouse Habitats in Nevada (1969, revised 1972)." Strutting areas of marginal importance may be considered for land treatment on a case-by-case basis. Their importance will be evaluated by State Fish and Game and BLM wildlife biologists.

(c) Allow land treatments (spraying or burning) on areas, which will not otherwise respond to grazing management within a reasonable time.

5. Area D (Massacre Mountain (Dogleg) and Long Valley Allotments)
(b) Sage Grouse: Evaluate on a case-by-case basis. Areas within two miles of strutting grounds which do not meet nest habitat requirements may be treated.

(c) Design vegetative manipulation projects to provide maximum livestock forage.

General Decision #17: Allow predator control pursuant to the Susanville District Animal Damage Control Plan. Direct control towards the specific predators causing the damage rather than the general predator population.

Subunits:

I. High Rock Canyon (Subunit #1) NOT IN VYA PMU

II. Massacre-Nut Mtn (Subunit #2)

Subunit #2, Decision #1: Designate the following allotments for intensive livestock grazing management:

Massacre Lakes

Rangeland Health Assessment: 1999
All Standards met, or progress being made toward meeting.

Allotment Management Plan: 1982

Objectives
1. Improve forage quality and quantity on the native rangelands and sprayed areas.
2. Increase stand density of Thurber's needlegrass from 5 to 15 percent.

Grazing System
Sand Springs Spray/Release Pasture (6,783 acres) – Annual use in July and August, up to 60% use.

Monitoring
Types of monitoring are outlined in the AMP.

Evaluation and Modification
An evaluation was started on the Massacre Lakes Allotment in 1988, but it was never completed, and the AMP has not been officially modified since 1982. Preliminary results from the evaluation indicated that the objective to increase stand density of Thurber's needlegrass from 5 to 15 percent was not achieved due to poor livestock distribution and deviations from the planned grazing system (extended annual use during the growing season). The Sand Springs Pasture is now being used for up to 60 days during the growing season, then it is rested the following year.

Nut Mountain

Rangeland Health Assessment: 1999
All Standards met, or progress being made toward meeting.

Allotment Management Plan: 1983

Objectives
1. Improve livestock distribution through the development of additional livestock water.
2. Maintain bitterbrush in a fair or better condition based on form class.
3. Defer grazing on the mountain area until June 15, annually.
4. Maintain the permittees present active preference for the short term. Improve range condition to the point that the permittees total preference can be authorized for use.

Grazing System
Cavalry Camp Seeding (4,394 acres) – Alternate rest and early use (60 days)

Mountain Pasture (40,227 acres) – Alternate mid season (July) and late season (September) use, 60 days annually.

Flexibility

1. The initial dates and use periods indicated on the grazing system are the objective of this plan. Some annual modifications may be necessary to prevent over utilization of an area.
2. April 16 is the anticipated date for range readiness in the allotment. This date could vary by as much as +/- 10 days, dependent upon annual weather conditions as determined by the Authorized Officer.
3. Approximately 85% of the cattle should be removed from the allotment by October 15. Ten days will be allowed to gather the remaining cattle.

Monitoring

Types of monitoring are outlined in the AMP.

III. Long Valley-Sand Creek (Subunit #3)

Subunit #3, Decision #1: Designate the following allotments for intensive livestock grazing management:

Long Valley

Rangeland Health Assessment: 1998

All Standards met.

Allotment Management Plan: 1983

Objectives

1. Create additional forage in the allotment by removing sagebrush and seeding to crested wheatgrass on about 10,000 acres. (Completed in the form of the Black Hills and Lone Spring Seedings)
2. Wheatgrass seedings will be used for early turnout (May 1 – July 31). Heavy utilization will be the upper limit of use on seedings.
3. Turnout on native range will be August 1 +/- 15 days depending on the seed ripe date for the key native species.
4. Moderate utilization will be the objective for maximum use on native range.

Grazing System

Black Hills seeding (6,321 acres) and Lone Spring Seeding (5,627 acres) – Alternate rest and up to 90 days use early (May to July). Maximum of heavy use (80%).

Mountain (11,577 acres) – Up to 75 days use late (July to September), annually.

Valley Bottom (6,860 acres) – Up to 45 days use late (August/September), annually.

Monitoring
Types of monitoring are outlined in the AMP.

Sand Creek

Rangeland Health Assessment: 1999
All Standards met, or progress being made toward meeting.

Allotment Management Plan: 1984

Objectives
1. Improve and maintain the major vegetative sites by increasing the percent composition, cover, and frequency of the key perennial grass species in the allotment.

The remaining objectives apply to areas of the allotment which are outside of the Massacre PMU.

Grazing System
Lowlands (1,000 acres) – Up to 60 days early use (April/May), annually.

49 Seeding (6,321 acres) – Alternate rest and up to 90 days early/mid season use (May/June/July).

Flexibility
The dates specified for the management of vegetation in each of the use areas are approximate and will fluctuate based on annual precipitation and temperatures. Therefore, movements of cattle will vary annually.

Monitoring
Types of monitoring are outlined in the AMP.

Bull Creek

Rangeland Health Assessment: 2000
Not meeting Stream Health, Riparian/Wetland, and Biodiversity Standards.
Current livestock grazing is primary factor in not meeting Standards in the Willow Creek drainage.

Guideline implemented:
#16 – A 4-6 inch minimum stubble height will remain at the end of the growing season in most riparian areas.

Willow Creek Decision: 2002
Fence Willow Creek system into an exclosure/riparian pasture. Rangeland Health Guideline #16 will continue to be implemented until pasture development is complete (expected in 2003 or 2004, depending upon funding).

Allotment Management Plan: 1984

Objectives

1. Improve and maintain the major vegetative sites by increasing the percent composition, cover, and frequency of the key perennial grass species in the allotment.
2. Enhance riparian values along Willow Creek.
3. Increase the productivity of degraded big sagebrush/bunchgrass sites in the allotment through brush removal.
4. Maintain browse species in a healthy form class for deer and antelope.

Grazing System

The grazing system outlined in the AMP has not been implemented. It required fencing the west side of the allotment into two pastures, and splitting the east side of the allotment into two pastures. Due to uneven forage and water distribution, these fences were never constructed.

Annual Operating Plans

Currently, the allotment consists of three pastures, including the Lower Pasture (13,335 acres) on the west side of the allotment, the Button Brush Pasture (5,473 acres) on the east side of the allotment, and the Bull Springs Pasture (20,658 acres) in the center of the allotment. Water development has been attempted in the south half of the Bull Springs Pasture, with little success. Only the north half of the Bull Springs Pasture is suitable for late season livestock use, and livestock use is concentrated in this area in the late summer/fall every year. Management has been adjusted annually in an attempt to improve livestock distribution on the allotment.

Livestock operator change will occur in 2003 (new leasee). Currently working with the base property owner and prospective leasees to develop a livestock grazing system that will meet the Land Use Plan and AMP objectives. Winter/spring grazing is being considered. Decision is expected in 2003, implementation in 2004.

Subunit #3, Decision #3: Manage the majority of the native range in the Long Valley (and North Larkspur) Allotments to meet the physiological needs of Great Basin wildrye.

Subunit #3, Decision #4: Manage the (Horse Lake, Little Basin, Calcutta), Sand Creek, and Bull Creek Allotments to reach 50 to 75 percent of site potential. Provide at least one growing season of rest every two years on native range.

Subunit #3, Decision #8: Treat approximately 21,000 acres suitable for brush control and seeding (includes Long Valley seedings).

Subunit #3, Decision #11: Leave Subunit 3 open to ORV travel.

Subunit #3, Decision #12: Encourage geothermal and oil and gas exploration and development.

Subunit #3, Decision #13: Encourage communication development on Forty-nine Mountain to satisfy communication needs before developing additional sites.

IV. Mosquito (Subunit #4)

Subunit #4, Decision #1: Designate the following allotments for intensive management (Map 8):

A. Boggs
B. Nevada Cowhead
C. East
D. Crooks Lake
E. South Larkspur
F. Mosquito
G. Little Valley
H. Holy
I. Nevada Coleman

Rationale—Intensive management of livestock in those allotments with predominately public lands will unsure that livestock are managed to achieve the multiple use objectives and goals identified through the planning process.

Subunit #4, Decision #2: Designate the following allotments for non-intensive management (Map 8):

A. Gravelly
B. Bally Mountain
C. Warner Valley
D. Scammon
E. Twelve Mile
F. Lartirogoyen
G. Upper Sand Creek
H. West
I. North Cowhead
J. Ninemile

Subunit #4, Decision #3: Allocate forage among both consumptive and non-consumptive resources, as shown in Table D, Forage Allocation, subunit 4. As additional forage becomes available, increased allocations will be made to wildlife, wild horses, and livestock, based on needs, responses to management, policy, etc.

Subunit #4, Decision #5: Manage subunit 4 to attain good ecological condition (50-75% of climax). Provide at least one growing season of rest every two years.

Subunit #4, Decision #6: Treat approximately 15,000 acres suitable for brush control and seeding (Map 8).

Subunit #4, Decision #7: Manage Twelve Mile [sic] Creek to enhance the habitat of the Warner Valley Sucker.

Subunit #4, Decision #8: Mange Coleman Creek to enhance riparian values (Map 8).

Other Decisions/Policy impacting sage grouse habitat:

Rangeland Health Standards and Guidelines for California and Northwestern Nevada, April 1998.

Integrated Weed Management on Bureau of Land Management Lands, Eagle Lake and Surprise Resource Areas in Nevada. EA #CA-370-97-19, specifically including the Proposed Action, Standard Operating Procedure (b) "Control of noxious weeds will not be conducted within ¼ mile of active sage grouse leks while sage grouse are using the leks during the lekking season."

1995 Memorandum of Understanding coordinating the management of undesirable plants across 13 federal and California State agencies.

1996 Memorandum of Understanding for weed abatement across 9 federal and California and Nevada State agencies.

Federal Noxious Weed Act of 1974, as amended November 28, 1990.

Surprise Resource Area Fire Strategic Plan, Phase One

Livestock Grazing System Summary

System	Allotment/Pasture	Acres	Use levels
Alternate, early & rest Total Acres: 215,577	Nut Mountain/ Cavalry Camp Seeding	4,394	Mod/Heavy
	Wall Canyon East/ South 1/2	20,377	Light livestock use, wild horse use additional.
	Massacre Mtn/ Little High Rock	24,127	Slight livestock use, wild horse use locally heavy.
	Long Valley/ Black Hills and Lone Spring Seeding	11,948	Mod/Heavy
	Sand Creek/ 49 Seeding	6,321	Mod/Heavy
	Home Camp/ Lower	104,523	Light, locally heavy around water.
	Bare/ Old Camp	20,690	Light/Mod use cows and horses.
	Bare/ West Summit	12,545	Light use cows and horses.
	Bare/ Lost Creek	10,652	Light, locally heavy use along Lost Creek.
Annual, early Total Acres: 134,062	Massacre Mtn/ Dogleg	9,327	Light
	Massacre Mtn/ Massacre Bench	11,918	Mod, locally heavy around water.
	Sand Creek/ Lowlands	1,000	Mod
	Bull Creek/ Lower	13,335	Light, locally heavy around Bull Creek and springs.
	Bull Creek/ Button Brush	5,473	Mod
	Home Camp/ Seedings	7,400	Mod
	Wall Canyon West/ Seeding	3,700	Mod/Heavy
	Duck Lake/ East	38,334	Light, locally heavy in Wall Cyn Creek and around water.
	Lower Lake	9,095	Light, locally mod around private land.
	Denio/ South	12,410	Mod, locally heavy around water.
	Bare/ No & So Hoover	22,070	Light, locally heavy around Cherry & Lost Creeks.
Alternate, mid/late & rest	Massacre Mtn/ Yellow Rock	18,500	Slight/light livestock use, wild horse use additional.
	Massacre Mtn/ Grassy Table	22,300	Mod, locally heavy around water.

Total Acres: 164,618	Bare/ East Summit	17,363	Light, locally heavy around water.
	Bare/ Clover Creek	48,628	Light/mod, locally heavy around water.
	Bare/ Fox Mtn	8,642	Light, locally heavy along Cottonwood Creek.
	Bare/ Hog Mtn	49,185	Light, locally mod/heavy along Leadville springs.
Annual, mid/late Total Acres: 197,484	Massacre Lakes/ Sand Springs Spray	6,783	Mod, locally heavy along main road and Sand Spring
	Nut Mountain/ Mtn & Hanging Rock	40,227	Mod/Heavy, locally heavy in Hanging Rock, Rock Spring, and Nut Spring drainages
	Wall Canyon East/ North 1/2	20,377	Light, locally mod/heavy around water.
	Massacre Mtn/ Mountain	18,500	Mod, locally heavy around water.
	Massacre Mtn/ Ranch	462	Mod, locally heavy
	Long Valley/ Mountain	11,577	Mod, locally heavy around Lone Spring and Sand Spring
	Long Valley/ Valley Bottom	6,860	Mod, locally heavy around 49 Lake, Central Lake, and Powers Well
	Bull Creek/ Bull Springs and Plateau	20,658	Light/Mod, locally heavy around Willow Creek
	Home Camp/ Mountain	32,450	Light/mod, locally heavy around water.
	Duck Lake/ West	27,488	Light, locally heavy around water.
	Denio/ North	12,102	Light, locally heavy around water.
Alternate, season-long & rest Total Acres: 34,116	Wall Canyon West/ East	15,100	Mod/heavy
	Wall Canyon West/ West	19,016	Light/mod
No livestock grazing Total Acres: 45,431	Bicondoa/ Bighorn Range	3,800	None/slight
	Massacre Mtn/ High Rock Cyn	41,400	Slight/light horse use, locally heavy around water.
	Massacre Mtn/ Stevens Camp, Pole Corral	231	Varies depending on condition of fences.

Livestock Utilization Criteria

Allotment	Upland	Riparian	Authority
Nut Mountain	Moderate grasses Light bitterbrush		C/M LUP, Sub #2, Dec. #6
Massacre Lakes	Moderate grasses Light bitterbrush		C/M LUP, Sub #2, Dec. #6
Massacre Mtn	Moderate grasses Light bitterbrush		C/M LUP, Sub #2, Dec. #6
Wall Canyon East	20-40%	4" stubble on Wall Canyon and Cottonwood Creeks	Decision
Long Valley	Moderate native Heavy seeded		AMP
Sand Creek	40-60%		C/M LUP, GD #3
Bull Creek	40-60%	4-6" stubble on Willow Creek	C/M LUP, GD #3 Decision
Home Camp	50%	3" stubble	AMP
Wall Canyon West	40-60%	5" stubble 5% bank alt on Wall Cyn Crk & Big Spring	Decision
Bare	60%	60% by July 1 40% by Oct 1	AMP
Duck Lake		40%	Decision
Denio	40-60%		AMP
Lower Lake	60%		AMP