# United States Department of the Interior

BUREAU OF LAND MANAGEMENT
Caliente Field Office
P.O. Box 237 (1400 South Front St.)
Caliente, Nevada 89008 - 0237
http://www.blm.gov/nv/st/en/fo/ely_field_office.html

December 21, 2009

In Reply Refer to:
4130 (NVL0300)

Dear Interested Public:

The Bureau of Land Management (BLM) Caliente Field Office has completed a Preliminary Environmental Assessment (EA) for the Delamar Valley Cattle (#2705052) term grazing permit renewal on the Oak Springs (#01050) and Cliff Springs (#21016) Allotments. This EA is being sent to you for solicitation of your comments and input. The EA is enclosed for a 15 day public review and comment period. You are receiving this letter because you expressed interest in grazing management actions on one or more of these allotments in your reply to the Ely BLM District 2009 Annual Consultation, Cooperation, and Coordination letter.

The proposed action of the EA is to fully process and renew the grazing permit for Delamar Valley Cattle on the Oak Springs and Cliff Springs Allotments and authorize livestock grazing on these allotments. Changes to livestock grazing management on the Oak Springs and Cliff Springs Allotments are being proposed in order to make progress towards the achievement of the Standards for Rangeland Health.

The issuance of a new permit could be for a period up to ten years. The Oak Springs and Cliff Springs Allotments encompass approximately 229,430 public land acres the allotments are located in Lincoln County less than seven miles West of Caliente, Nevada within the Great Basin physiographic region. There are no wilderness areas within the Oak Springs and Cliff Springs Allotments. The allotments are located with the Dry Lake Valley (#183), Panaca Valley (#210), and Meadow Valley Wash (#214A) watersheds.

Please review the EA and provide written comments **by January 8, 2009.** Please address all comments to:

Craig Hoover, Rangeland Management Specialist
Bureau of Land Management
HC 33, Box 33500
Ely, Nevada 89301

Please note, before including your address, phone number, e-mail address, or other personal identifying information in your comment, you should be aware that your entire comment including your personal identifying information may be made publicly available at any time.

While you can ask us in your comment to withhold your personal identifying information from public review, we cannot guarantee that we will be able to do so.

Thank you for your cooperation. If you have any questions about this project, please contact Craig Hoover, Rangeland Management Specialist at (775) 289-1889.

Sincerely,

/s/Victoria Barr

Victoria Barr
Field Manager
Caliente Field Office

Enclosure

cc:

BLM

**U.S. Department of the Interior**
**Bureau of Land Management**

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**DOI-BLM-NV-L030-2009-0020-EA**

**December 11, 2009**

# Preliminary Environmental Assessment
# Term Grazing Permit Renewal for Delamar Valley Cattle (#2705052) for the Oak Springs (01050) and Cliff Springs (21016) Allotments

***Location: Lincoln County, NV***

U.S. Department of the Interior
Bureau of Land Management
Ely District Office
Phone: (775) 289-4505
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NATIONAL SYSTEM OF PUBLIC LANDS

## 1.0 Introduction: Need for Action

This document identifies issues, analyzes alternatives, and discloses the potential environmental impacts associated with the proposed grazing term permit renewal of Delamar Valley Cattle for the Oak Springs (#01050) and Cliff Springs (#21016) Allotments. The aforementioned allotments are located in Lincoln County less than seven miles west of Caliente, Nevada within the Great Basin physiographic region. There are no wilderness areas within the Oak Springs and Cliff Springs Allotments. The allotments are located with the Dry Lake Valley (#183), Panaca Valley (#210), and Meadow Valley Wash (#214A) watersheds.

The legal descriptions of the Oak Springs and Cliff Springs Allotments are as follows:

Oak Springs
T03S R63E, Multiple sections
T03S R64E, Multiple sections
T03S R65E, Multiple sections

T04SR63E, Multiple sections
T04S R64E, Multiple sections
T04S R65E, Multiple sections

T05SR63E, Multiple sections
T05S R64E, Multiple sections
T05S R65E, Multiple sections

T06SR63E, Multiple sections
T06S R64E, Multiple sections
T06S R65E, Multiple sections

Cliff Springs
T03S R64E, Multiple sections
T03S R65E, Multiple sections

### 1.0.1 Background

Current grazing management practices have been implemented since the current grazing term permit was issued for the Oak Springs and Cliff Springs Allotments on March 01, 2008. This grazing permit carried forth the management actions to permitted use identified in the livestock grazing permit terms and conditions on this allotment.

### 1.1 Introduction of the Proposed Action.

The Bureau of Land Management (BLM) Caliente Field Office proposes to issue and fully process term grazing permit for Delamar Valley Cattle and authorize grazing on the Oak

Springs and Cliff Springs Allotment. Changes to the existing permit are recommended to achieve the Standards and Guidelines for Nevada's Mojave-Southern Great Basin Area as established by the Mojave-Southern Great Basin Resource Advisory Council (RAC), approved 1997.

The Oak Springs and Cliff Springs Allotments are allotments with only one term grazing permit currently authorized, Delamar Valley Cattle. The Proposed Action in this preliminary EA (DOI-BLM-NV-L030-2009-0020-EA) involves two allotments, the Oak Springs and Cliff Springs Allotments.

Monitoring data was reviewed and assessments of the rangeland health of each allotment were completed in 2008-2009 during the term permit renewal process through Standards Determination Documents (SDD). The Oak Springs and Cliff Springs allotment SDD (see Appendix I) is included with this preliminary EA for review and comment.

The Oak Springs and Cliff Springs Allotment SDD was reviewed by a BLM interdisciplinary team in August, 2009. The Oak Springs and Cliff Springs SDD is provided with this EA for reference purposes only.

The following is a summary of the Oak Springs and Cliff Springs SDD for achievement of the standards.

**Table 1.1-1 Summarized Standard Determination.**

| ALLOTMENT | STANDARD 1<br>Soils | STANDARD 2<br>Ecosystem components | STANDARD 3<br>Habitat and Biota |
|---|---|---|---|
| **Oak Springs (#21003)** | Not Achieving the Standard, and not making significant progress toward standard. Livestock are not a contributing factor to not achieving the standard. | Not Achieving the Standard, and not making significant progress toward standard. Livestock are not a contributing factor to not achieving the standard. | Not Achieving the Standard, and not making significant progress toward standard. Livestock are not a contributing factor to not achieving the standard. |
| **Cliff Springs (#01050)** | Not Achieving the Standard, and not making significant progress toward standard. Livestock are not a contributing factor to not achieving the standard. | Not Achieving the Standard, and not making significant progress toward standard. Livestock are not a contributing factor to not achieving the standard. | Not Achieving the Standard, and not making significant progress toward standard. Livestock are not a contributing factor to not achieving the standard. |

## 1.2 Need for the Proposed Action.

The need for the proposal is to provide for legitimate multiple uses of the public lands by renewing the term grazing permits for Delamar Valley Cattle (#2705052) with a new terms and conditions for Nevada's Mojave-Southern Great Basin Area grazing use that conform to guidelines and achieve or move towards achieving the standards in accordance with all applicable laws, regulations, and policies and in accordance with Title 43 CFR 4130.2(a) which states, "Grazing permits or leases authorize use on the public lands and other BLM-administered lands that are designated in land use plans as available for livestock grazing."

## 1.3 Objectives for the Proposed Action.

**1.3.1.** To renew the grazing term permits for Delamar Valley Cattle and authorize grazing in accordance with applicable laws, regulations, and land use plans (LUP) on approximately 229,430 acres of public land.

**1.3.2.** To improve vegetative health and growth conditions on the allotments and continue to make progress towards achieving the Standards and Guidelines for rangeland health as approved and published by Nevada's Mojave-Southern Great Basin RAC (1997).

## 1.4 Relationship to Planning

The Proposed Action is in conformance with the Ely District Record of Decision and Approved Resource Management Plan signed August 20, 2008, which states, "Manage livestock grazing on public lands to provide for a level of livestock grazing consistent with multiple use, sustained yield, and watershed function and health." In addition, "To allow livestock grazing to occur in a manner and at levels consistent with multiple use, sustained yield, and the standards for rangeland health (p 85-86)."

Management Action LG-1 states, "Make approximately 11,246,900 acres and 545,267 animal unit months available for livestock grazing on a long-term basis."

Management Action LG-5 states, "Maintain the current grazing preference, season-of-use, and kind of livestock until the allotments that have not been evaluated for meeting or making progress toward meeting the standards or are in conformance with the policies are evaluated. Depending on the results of the standards assessment, maintain or modify grazing preference, seasons-of-use, kind of livestock and grazing management practices to achieve the standards for rangeland health. Changes, such as improved livestock management, new range improvement projects, and changes in the amount and kinds of forage permanently available for livestock use, can lead to changes in preference, authorized season-of-use, or kind of livestock. Ensure changes continue to meet the RMP goals and objectives, including the standards for rangeland health."

### 1.4.1 Relationship to Other Plans

The Proposed Action is consistent with the following Federal, State, and local plans to the maximum extent possible.

- State Protocol Agreement between the Bureau of Land Management, Nevada and the Nevada Historic Preservation Office (1999).
- Mojave-Southern Great Basin Resource Advisory Council (RAC) Standards and Guidelines (February 12, 1997).
- Lincoln County Public Land and Natural Resource Management Plan (1997).

### 1.4.2 Tiering

This document is tiered to the Ely Resource Management Plan/Final Environmental Impact Statement (August 2008).

### 1.5 Relevant Issues and Internal Scoping/Public Scoping.

The term permit renewal proposal was initiated on February 24, 2009, with a presentation to the internal resource specialist team to identify any relevant issues. The only preliminary issue identified regarding the Proposed Action was noxious and invasive weeds**.**

A Grazing Permit Renewal Summary for these permits was published on the Ely District website on January 15, 2009. No comments were received.

A letter was mailed to each grazing permittee regarding the permit renewal action on January 21, 2009, requesting comments by January 31, 2009. No comments were received.

On November 19, 2008, a letter was sent to local tribes requesting comments by December 22, 2008. No comments were received regarding these permit renewals.

On December 2, 2008, a Notice of Proposed Action on Lands in Wilderness was mailed to individuals and organizations that have expressed an interest in wilderness related actions requesting comments by January 23, 2009. No Comments received from the Wilderness mailing list.

The Ely District Office mails an annual Consultation, Cooperation, and Coordination (CCC) Letter to individuals and organizations that have expressed an interest in rangeland management related actions. Those receiving the annual CCC Letter have the opportunity to request from the Field Office more information regarding specific actions. The following individuals and organizations, who were sent the annual CCC letter in November 2008, have requested additional information regarding rangeland related actions or programs within the Oak springs and Cliff Spring Allotments:

Nevada Department of Wildlife, Steve Foree
Western Watersheds Project, Katie Fite
Steven Carter
Sustainable Grazing Coalition, Richard Orr
Eastern Nevada Landscape Coalition, Betsy Macfarlan
Joe McGloin
Nevada State Clearinghouse (electronic copy only)
Carl Slgowski

All of these entities will be mailed a copy of the preliminary EA and draft Oak Springs and Cliff Springs Allotment SDD for review and comment.

## 2.0 Alternatives Including the Proposed Action

### 2.1 Proposed Action

The BLM proposes to issue and fully process a new term grazing permit for Delamar Valley Cattle (#2705052) and authorize grazing on Oak Springs and Cliff Springs Allotments (see Figures 1 and 2). Changes to the permits are recommended to achieve the Standards and Guidelines for Nevada's Mojave-Southern Great Basin Area on these allotments.

For the Oak Springs and Cliff Springs Allotments, recommended management actions have been identified in the Standard Determination Document (SDD). These include deferring grazing during the critical spring growing period (March 15 to May 15), setting allowable use levels on key forage plant species, and livestock supplement placement/location restrictions to ensure proper grazing distribution across the allotment.

The current Active Animal Unit Months (AUMs) would remain as 9268 active AUMs for the Oak Springs Allotment and 2043 active AUMs for the Cliff Springs Allotment.

This Proposed Action also establishes utilization levels on all the Oak Springs and Cliff Springs Allotments. An allowable use level for the Oak Springs and Cliff Springs Allotments will be established as 50% of the current year's growth by weight for the key native species Ephedra (*Ephedra spp.)*, four-wing saltbush (*Atriplex canescens*.), Indian ricegrass ( A*chnatherum hymenoides)*, Galleta grass (*Pleuraphis jamesii)*, and winterfat (*Krascheninnikovia lanata)*. Utilization will be measured at established key grazing areas or other sites representative of the dominant vegetation in the use area. When an average of 50% use is reached at these sites, the cattle would be removed from the pasture within 5 days. Utilization of winterfat areas should not exceed 35% under any circumstances. When an average of 35% use is reached at these sites, the cattle would be removed from the pasture within 5 days.

These use levels would allow these plants to develop above ground biomass for protection of soils; contribute to litter cover; and develop roots to improve carbohydrate storage for

vigor, reproduction, and improve/increase desirable perennial cover. These use levels also would also allow for additional habitat cover for wildlife.

The BLM and the Livestock permittees would work together on an annual basis to identify livestock management practices to be implemented for each year on the Oak Springs and Cliff Springs Allotments. Annual grazing may be modified from the terms and conditions listed above in consideration of climatic conditions such as drought, forage availability, wildfire locations, and/or other factors, as long as vegetative objectives are met.

During the period of this term permit renewal, the BLM and Livestock permittee will monitor the Oak Springs and Cliff Springs Allotments for resource conditions in order to determine the effectiveness of the changes made as part of the term permit renewal process in achieving or making progress towards achieving the Standards for Rangeland Health. The Livestock permittee will be encouraged to participate in the monitoring. Rangeland monitoring may be conducted both prior to and following annual use. Monitoring conducted prior to annual use will determine areas of forage availability and cattle stocking levels. Monitoring conducted following grazing use will determine utilization levels and use patterns. Specific rangeland monitoring studies could include cover studies, ecological condition studies, key forage plant method utilization transects, use pattern mapping, frequency trend, observed apparent trend, professional observation, and photographs.

Grazing use will be in accordance with Standards and Guidelines for Rangeland Health.

Supplement locations should be moved every year and salt blocks and nutritional supplements will be located at least ½ mile away from riparian/wetland areas, water ditches, or other permanently located or natural water sources .

The current permits are shown in Table 2.2.1 Proposed changes are in Tables 2.1.1 and in the Standards and Determination Document, Appendix I. The same kind of livestock is grazed and the active use previously authorized is not exceeded. Proposed changes to the permit terms and conditions would affect the overall management of livestock.

### 2.1.1 Proposed Term Permit

The renewal of the term grazing permit would be for a period of up to 10 years. If base property is transferred during this ten year period with no changes to the terms and conditions the new term permit would be issued for the remaining term of this term permit.

The **proposed term** permit for Delamar Valley Cattle and terms and conditions are depicted in table 2.1.1

**Table 2.1.1 Proposed Season of Use for the Delamar Valley Cattle Term Grazing Permit**

| **Allotment** | Livestock Operator | Type of Livestock | Period of Use | Active AUMs |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| Oak Springs | Delamar Valley Cattle | Cattle | 05/16-03/14 | 9268 |
| Cliff Springs | Delamar Valley Cattle | Cattle | 05/16-03/14 | 2043 |

**Terms and Conditions:**

Terms and Conditions for the Oak Springs and Cliff Springs Allotments:

1. An allowable use level for the Oak Springs and Cliff Springs Allotment will be established as 50% of the current year's growth by weight for the key native species Ephedra, four-wing saltbush (*Atriplex* spp.),Indian ricegrass ,Galleta grass, and winterfat. Utilization will be measured at established key grazing areas or other sites representative of the dominant vegetation in the use area. When an average of 50% use is reached at these sites, the cattle would be removed from the pasture within 5 days. Utilization of winterfat areas should not exceed 35% under any circumstances. When an average of 35% use is reached at these sites, the cattle would be removed from the pasture within 5 days.

2. The permittee will be required to perform normal maintenance on the range improvements that have been or will be issued through approved cooperative agreements or Section 4 permits.

3. Supplement locations should be moved every year. Salt blocks and nutritional supplements will be located at least ½ mile away from riparian/wetland areas, water ditches, or other permanently located or natural water sources .

4. Locate water haul sites at least ½ away from winterfat dominated sites.

5. No motorized access is permitted within the designated Wilderness without approval of the District Manager. There are no range developments requiring occasional motorized access for maintenance. Occasional motorized access may be permitted for emergency situations, or where practical alternatives for reasonable grazing management needs are not available and such use would not have a significant adverse impact on the natural environment.

6. Hot season grazing (June 1 thru August 31) should be avoided on all springs and riparian areas. If hot season spring and riparian grazing does occur, when an average of 35% use is reached at these sites, the cattle will be removed from the spring and riparian pasture within five days.

Additional Stipulations Common to All Grazing Allotments in the Ely District:

1. Livestock numbers identified in the Term Grazing Permit are a function of seasons of use and permitted use. Deviations from those livestock numbers and seasons of use may be authorized on an annual basis where such deviations would not prevent attainment of the multiple-use objectives for the allotment.

2. Deviations from specified grazing use dates will be allowed when consistent with multiple-use objectives. Such deviations will require an application and written authorization from the authorized officer prior to grazing use.

3. The authorized officer is requiring that an actual use report (form 4130-5) be submitted within 15 days after completing your annual grazing use.

4. Grazing use will be in accordance with the Standards and Guidelines for Grazing Administration. The Standards and Guidelines have been developed by the respective Resource Advisory Council and approved by the Secretary of the Interior on February 12, 1997. Grazing use will also be in accordance with 43 CFR Subpart 4180 - Fundamentals of Rangeland Health and Standards and Guidelines for Grazing Administration.

5. If future monitoring data indicates that Standards and Guidelines for Grazing Administration are not being met, the permit will be reissued subject to revised terms and conditions.

6. Pursuant to 43 CFR 10.4 (G) the holder of this authorization must notify the authorized officer by telephone, with written confirmation, immediately upon discovery of human remains, funerary objects, sacred objects, or objects of cultural patrimony (as defined at 43 CFR 10.2). Further, pursuant to 43 CFR 10.4 (C) and (D), you must stop activities in the immediate vicinity of the discovery and protect it from your activities for 30 days or until notified to proceed by the authorized officer.

7. The permittee must notify the authorized officer by telephone, with written confirmation, immediately upon discovery of any hazardous or solid wastes as defined in 40 CFR Part 261.

8. The permittee is responsible for all maintenance of assigned range improvements including wildlife escape ramps for both permanent and temporary water troughs.

9. When necessary, control or restrict the timing of livestock movement to minimize the transport of livestock-borne noxious weed seeds, roots, or rhizomes between weed-infested and weed-free areas.

### 2.1.2 Invasive, Non-Native Species and Noxious Weeds

A Weed Risk Assessment (See Appendix III) was completed on January 9, 2009. The stipulations listed in the Weed Risk Assessment will be followed when grazing occurs on the allotments.

- Prior to entering public lands, the BLM will provide information regarding noxious weed management and identification to the permit holders affiliated with the project. The importance of preventing the spread of weeds to uninfested areas and importance of controlling existing populations of weeds will be explained.
- The range specialist for the allotments will include weed detection into project compliance inspection activities. If the spread of noxious weeds is noted, appropriate weed control procedures will be determined in consultation with BLM personnel and will be in compliance with the appropriate BLM handbook sections and applicable laws and regulations.
- To eliminate the introduction of noxious weed seeds, roots, or rhizomes all interim and final seed mixes, hay, straw, hay/straw, or other organic products used for feed or bedding will be certified free of plant species listed on the Nevada noxious weed list or specifically identified by the BLM Ely Field Office.
- Grazing will be conducted in compliance with the Ely District BLM noxious weed schedules. The scheduled procedures can significantly and effectively reduce noxious weed spread or introduction into the project area.
- Any newly established populations of noxious/invasive weeds discovered will be communicated to the Ely District Noxious and Invasive Weeds Coordinator for treatment.

### 2.1.3 Migratory Birds

Interim Management Guidance, WO IM No. 2008-050 (December, 2007) states, “Best Management Practices to avoid or minimize the possibility of the unintentional take of migratory birds should be applied to all projects.”

### 2.1.4 Special Status Species

Appendix A, Section 1 (pg. A.1-6, number 9) of the Ely RMP states "Normally place salt and mineral supplements at least 0.5 mile away from riparian areas, sensitive sites, populations of special status plant species, cultural resource sites. Place water haul sites at least ½ mile away from riparian areas, cultural sites, and special status species locations."

### 2.1.5 Monitoring

The Ely District Approved Resource Management Plan (August 2008) identifies monitoring to include, "Monitoring to assess rangeland health standards will include records of actual livestock use, measurements of forage utilization, ecological site inventory data, cover data, soil mapping, and allotment evaluations or rangeland health assessments. Conditions and trends of resources affected by livestock management actions, will contribute to the selection of prescribed burn treatments or other types of treatments based on attainment of resource objectives. (p.88)"

## 2.2 Alternative Action A

The renewal of the term grazing permit would be for a period of up to 10 years. If base property is transferred during this ten year period with no changes to the terms and conditions the new term permit would be issued for the remaining term of this term permit.

**Table 2.2.1 Alternative Term Permit for Delamar Valley Cattle (#2705052)**

| Allotment | Livestock Operator | Type of Livestock | Period of Use | Active AUMs |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| Oak Springs (01050) | Delamar Valley Cattle | Cattle | 03/01-02/28 | 9268 |
| Cliff Springs (21016) | Delamar Valley Cattle | Cattle | 03/01-02/28 | 2043 |

The pastures with in the Oak Springs and Cliff Springs allotments will be divided into multiple grazing rotations and used in a year round or seasonal grazing system in together with other allotments grazed by Delamar Valley Cattle but under a different grazing permit.

The current period of use (03/01 to 02/28) for cattle is proposed to remain the same for the Oak Spring and Cliff Springs Allotments. This will allow more flexibility within the proposed multi-pasture (allotment) deferred rotation system by the livestock operator in addition to providing greater latitude for achievement and /or maintenance of the Standards and Guidelines.

The proposed grazing system would employ the Oak Springs and Cliff Springs Allotments as separate pastures within a multi-pasture (allotment) deferred rotation grazing system. Each pasture would be deferred from livestock grazing during the spring key forage critical growing season so no pasture would be grazed on consecutive years. The majority of the water sources on the allotment are either developed or natural undeveloped springs. The timing of livestock movement is carried through with consideration of minimal disturbance to wildlife such as deer on wintering ranges. Livestock forage utilization levels will not exceed fifty percent of current years key forage shrubs and grasses in normal precipitation years. Adjustments in key forage use levels have been made in the past and will be in the future with regards drought, wildfire area closures and the associated decrease in available livestock forage.

**Terms and Conditions:**

Terms and Conditions for the Oak Springs and Cliff Springs Allotments:

1.) For both Oak Springs and Cliff Springs Allotments the maximum utilization levels would be established according to the following guidelines:

    If livestock use occurs during the spring period of use (prior to May 31st) the following use levels will apply.Perennial native grasses perennial non-native seedings: 40% during April and May of current year's.

    *This use level is necessary to allow desirable key herbaceous species to 1) develop above ground biomass for protection of soils, 2) to contribute to litter cover, and 3) develop roots to improve carbohydrate storage for vigor, reproduction, and improve/increase desirable perennial cover.*

    If livestock use occurs during the summer and early fall period of use (after May 31st) the following use levels will apply. Perennial native grasses and perennial non-native seedings: 50% of current year's growth June through September.

    *This use level is necessary to allow desirable key herbaceous species to 1) develop above ground biomass for protection of soils, 2) to contribute to litter cover, and 3) develop roots to improve carbohydrate storage for vigor, reproduction, and improve/increase desirable perennial cover.*

    If livestock use occurs during the winter fall period of use (November 1st to February 28th) the following use levels will apply. Perennial native grasses: 50% of current year's growth November through February.

    *This use level is necessary to allow desirable key herbaceous species to 1) develop above ground biomass for protection of soils, 2) to contribute to litter cover, and*

*3) develop roots to improve carbohydrate storage for vigor, reproduction, and improve/increase desirable perennial cover.*

Livestock will be moved to another authorized pasture or removed from the allotment before utilization objectives are met or no later than 5 days after meeting the utilization objectives. Any deviation in livestock movement will require authorization from the authorized officer.

The livestock management practices identified above will continue to assist in the maintenance and/or improvement of the native range. These management practices help to achieve the 40% allowable use level on native range and the crested wheatgrass seeding during April and May and 50% during June through September allowable use levels, proper cover and ecological condition of the native range.

2. Utilization of winterfat areas should not exceed 35% under any circumstances. When an average of 35% use is reached at these sites, the cattle would be removed from the pasture within 5 days.

3. The permittee will be required to perform normal maintenance on the range improvements that have been or will be issued through approved cooperative agreements or Section 4 permits.

4. Supplement locations should be moved every year. Salt blocks and nutritional supplements will be located at least ½ mile away from riparian/wetland areas, water ditches, or other permanently located or natural water sources .

5. Locate water haul sites at least ½ away from winterfat dominated sites.

6. No motorized access is permitted within the designated Wilderness without approval of the District Manager. There are no range developments requiring occasional motorized access for maintenance. Occasional motorized access may be permitted for emergency situations, or where practical alternatives for reasonable grazing management needs are not available and such use would not have a significant adverse impact on the natural environment.

7. No Allotment pasture will be grazed during the critical spring growing season on consecutive years.

8. Each year grazing use will be contingent upon submittal of an annual grazing plan requiring approval by the authorized officer. The annual grazing plan will be submitted by April 1.

9. Hot season grazing (June 1 thru August 31) should be avoided on all springs and riparian areas. If hot season spring and riparian area grazing does occur,

when an average of 35% use is reached at these sites, the cattle will be removed from the spring and riparian pasture within five days.

Additional Stipulations Common to All Grazing Allotments in the Ely District:

1. Livestock numbers identified in the Term Grazing Permit are a function of seasons of use and permitted use. Deviations from those livestock numbers and seasons of use may be authorized on an annual basis where such deviations would not prevent attainment of the multiple-use objectives for the allotment.

2. Deviations from specified grazing use dates will be allowed when consistent with multiple-use objectives. Such deviations will require an application and written authorization from the authorized officer prior to grazing use.

3. The authorized officer is requiring that an actual use report (form 4130-5) be submitted within 15 days after completing your annual grazing use.

4. Grazing use will be in accordance with the Standards and Guidelines for Grazing Administration. The Standards and Guidelines have been developed by the respective Resource Advisory Council and approved by the Secretary of the Interior on February 12, 1997. Grazing use will also be in accordance with 43 CFR Subpart 4180 - Fundamentals of Rangeland Health and Standards and Guidelines for Grazing Administration.

5. If future monitoring data indicates that Standards and Guidelines for Grazing Administration are not being met, the permit will be reissued subject to revised terms and conditions.

6. Pursuant to 43 CFR 10.4 (G) the holder of this authorization must notify the authorized officer by telephone, with written confirmation, immediately upon discovery of human remains, funerary objects, sacred objects, or objects of cultural patrimony (as defined at 43 CFR 10.2). Further, pursuant to 43 CFR 10.4 (C) and (D), you must stop activities in the immediate vicinity of the discovery and protect it from your activities for 30 days or until notified to proceed by the authorized officer.

7. The permittee must notify the authorized officer by telephone, with written confirmation, immediately upon discovery of any hazardous or solid wastes as defined in 40 CFR Part 261.

8. The permittee is responsible for all maintenance of assigned range improvements including wildlife escape ramps for both permanent and temporary water troughs.

9. When necessary, control or restrict the timing of livestock movement to minimize the transport of livestock-borne noxious weed seeds, roots, or rhizomes between weed-infested and weed-free areas.

### 2.3 No Action Alternative

The No Action Alternative represents the status quo – the permit would be renewed without changes to grazing management, modifications to the permit terms and conditions.

#### 2.3.1 Current permit

**Table 2.3-1 Current Term Permit for Delamar Valley Cattle (#2705052)**

| Allotment | Livestock Operator | Type of Livestock | Period of Use | Active AUMs |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| Oak Springs (01050) | Delamar Valley Cattle | Cattle | 03/01-02/28 | 9268 |
| Cliff Springs (21016) | Delamar Valley Cattle | Cattle | 03/01-02/28 | 2043 |

### 2.4 Alternatives Considered but Eliminated from Further Analysis

Also, the Ely Proposed Resource Management Plan/Final Environmental Impact Statement (November, 2007) analyzes five alternatives of livestock grazing (p.4.16-1 to 4.16-15.), including a no-grazing alternative (D). No further analysis is necessary in this document.

- The Proposed RMP
- Alternative A, The Continuation of Current Existing (No Action alternative)
- Alternative B, the maintenance and restoration of healthy ecological systems
- Alternative C, commodity production
- Alternative D, conservation alternative (no-grazing alternative)

No other alternatives are needed to address unresolved conflicts concerning alternative uses of available resources

## Description of the Affected Environment and Associated Environmental Consequences.

### 3.1 Allotment Information

The Oak Springs and Cliff Springs Allotments encompass approximately 229,430 public land acres the allotments are located in Lincoln County less than seven miles West of Caliente, Nevada within the Great Basin physiographic region. There are no wilderness

areas within the Oak Springs and Cliff Springs Allotments. The allotments are located with the Dry Lake Valley (#183), Panaca Valley (#210), and Meadow Valley Wash (#214A) watersheds.

The vegetation within the Allotment should be diverse with shrub/grass plant communities dominating. The major plant components within the allotment should be four-wing saltbush, Nevada ephedra (*Ephedra nevadensis*), winterfat,*)*, Indian ricegrass, and galleta grass. Together, all these species should be the dominant vegetative species on more than 85% of the total area of the allotment.

**Wildlife Species Present on the Oak Springs and Cliff Springs Allotments**

The Oak Springs and Cliff Springs Allotments contain the following wildlife species: mule deer (*Odocoileus hemionus*) year-round habitat, pronghorn antelope (*Antilocarpa americana*), common kingsnake (*Lampropeltis getulua*), and Great Basin gopher snake (*Pituophis catenifer* var. *deserticola*). Nine wildlife water developments (six for small game and three for big game) are located within the allotment. The BLM sensitive wildlife species desert bighorn sheep **((***Ovis canadensis nelsoni***),** Desert Valley kangaroo mouse (*Microdipodops megacephalus*), pinyon jay (*Gymnorhinus cyanocephalus*), juniper titmouse (*Baeolophus ridgwayi*), loggerhead shrike (*Lanius ludovicianus*), and gray vireo (*Vireo vicinior*) may occur within the allotment. The following BLM sensitive plant species may occur within the allotment: sanicle biscuitroot (*Cymopterus ripleyi* var. *saniculoides*) and Gilman milkvetch (*Astragalus gilmanii*).

### 3.2 Resources/Concerns Considered for Analysis

The following items have been evaluated for the potential for significant impacts to occur, either directly, indirectly or cumulatively, due to implementation of the Proposed Action. Consideration of some of these items is to ensure compliance with laws, statutes or Executive Orders that impose certain requirements upon all Federal actions. Other items are relevant to the management of public lands in general, and to the Ely BLM in particular.

| Resource/Concern Considered | Issue(s) Analyzed ? (Y/N) | Rationale for Dismissal from Analysis or Issue(s) Requiring Detailed Analysis |
|---|---|---|
| Air Quality | No | Air quality in the affected area is unknown. The Proposed Action would contribute to ambient dust in the air due to trailing, but no impacts are anticipated. Detailed analysis is not required. |

| Resource/Concern Considered | Issue(s) Analyzed ? (Y/N) | Rationale for Dismissal from Analysis or Issue(s) Requiring Detailed Analysis |
|---|---|---|
| Cultural Resources | No | The Ely District Resource Management Plan, August 2008, goal is to identify, preserve, and protect significant cultural resources and ensure that they are available for appropriate uses by present and future generations.<br><br>The BLM conducts field investigations and maintains files of archeological sites on public lands. Analyses of existing documentation indicates that concentrated livestock activities near water sources, along fences, and in areas where livestock seek shelter, could adversely affect cultural resources.<br><br>The cultural staff will identify cultural properties being impacted by grazing activities to be monitored in order to determine condition, impacts, deterioration, and use of these properties. As necessary, strategies (including mitigation) are developed and implemented in order to reduce threats and resolve conflicts to the property. |
| Forest Health | No | Any impacts to unique or sensitive forested land will be negligible due to the high elevations and steep slopes these forested areas occur in. |
| Rangeland Standards and Health | No | Impacts from livestock grazing on Rangeland Standards and Health are analyzed on pages 4.16-3 through 4.16-4 of the Ely Proposed Resource Management Plan/Environmental Impact Statement (November 2007). Beneficial impacts to rangeland standards and health are consistent with the need and objectives for the Proposed Action. An assessment and evaluation of livestock grazing managements achievement of the standards and conformance to the guidelines was completed in conjunction with this project (SDD and Appendix III). No further analysis is needed. |

| Resource/Concern Considered | Issue(s) Analyzed ? (Y/N) | Rationale for Dismissal from Analysis or Issue(s) Requiring Detailed Analysis |
|---|---|---|
| Migratory Birds | No | Appendix V contains data that reflect survey blocks and/or incidental sightings of bird species within the allotment boundaries from the Atlas of the Breeding Birds of Nevada (Floyd et al. 2007). These data represent birds that were confirmed, probably, or possibly breeding within the allotment boundaries. These data are not comprehensive, and additional species not listed here may be present within the allotment boundary. There is potential of livestock trampling migratory bird nests, however the likelihood of this happening is minimal because of deferring grazing during the critical spring growing period (March 15 to May 15) and livestock supplement placement/location restrictions to ensure proper grazing distribution across the allotment. No impacts to migratory bird populations as a whole would occur. |
| Native American Religious Concerns and other concerns | No | No concerns were identified through coordination letters sent on November 19, 2008. Direct impacts and cumulative impacts would not occur because there were no identified concerns through coordination. |
| FWS Listed or proposed for listing Threatened or Endangered Species or critical habitat.* | No | Threatened, Endangered, or Proposed species are not known to be present in the project area. |
| Wastes, Hazardous or Solid | No | No hazardous or solid wastes exist in the allotments nor would be introduced by the proposed action. |
| Water Quality, Drinking/Ground | No | Impacts from livestock grazing on Water Resources were analyzed on page 4.3-5 in the Ely Proposed Resource Management Plan/Final Environmental Impact Statement (November 2007).The proposed action does not pose any impact to ground water in the project area. No surface water in the project area is used as human drinking water sources and no impaired water of the State are present in the project area. |
| Wilderness | No | Portions of the Oak Springs Allotment occur within the Big Rocks Wilderness. Trammeling activities will occur in the form of removal of vegetation through livestock grazing, but would not impair wilderness characteristics. |

| Resource/Concern Considered | Issue(s) Analyzed ? (Y/N) | Rationale for Dismissal from Analysis or Issue(s) Requiring Detailed Analysis |
|---|---|---|
| Environmental Justice | No | No environmental justice issues are present at or near the project area. No minority or low income populations would be unduly affected by the Proposed Action |
| Floodplains | No | No floodplains have been identified by HUD or FEMA within the allotment. Floodplains as defined in Executive Order 11988 may exist in the area, but would not be affected by the proposed action. |
| Watershed Management | No | Impacts from livestock grazing on Watershed Management are analyzed on page 4.19-8 of the Ely Proposed Resource Management Plan/Final Environmental Impact Statement (November 2007). Further changes to livestock management may be recommended by the watershed analysis process, however no concerns have been identified at this time. |
| Wetlands/Riparian Zones | No | There are fourteen named and unnamed springs on public land. All fourteen springs are identified as wetland areas in the proposed term permit renewal area. Impacts from livestock grazing on riparian areas are analyzed on pp 4.5-9 of the Ely Proposed Resource management Plan/Final Environmental Impact Statement (November 2007). There are no anticipated impacts other than those described in the proposed action as a result of changing the permit terms. |
| Wild and Scenic Rivers | No | There are no wild and scenic rivers within the allotments. |
| Noxious and Invasive Weed Management | Yes | Changes in the grazing system to the permit will result in changes in the impacts to noxious and invasive weeds. |
| Special Status Animal Species, other than those listed or proposed by the FWS as Threatened or Endangered | Yes | Impacts from livestock grazing on Special Status Species are analyzed on page 4.7-28 through page 4.7-30 of the Ely Proposed Resource Management Plan/Final Environmental Impact Statement (November 2007). Desert bighorn sheep, Desert Valley kangaroo mouse, pinyon jay (Gymnorhinus cyanocephalus), juniper titmouse (Baeolophus ridgwayi), loggerhead shrike (Lanius ludovicianus), and gray vireo (Vireo vicinior) may occur within the allotment. See analysis below for these species. |

| Resource/Concern Considered | Issue(s) Analyzed ? (Y/N) | Rationale for Dismissal from Analysis or Issue(s) Requiring Detailed Analysis |
|---|---|---|
| Special Status Plant Species, other than those listed or proposed by the FWS as Threatened or Endangered | Yes | The BLM sensitive plant species sanicle biscuitroot (Cymopterus ripleyi var. saniculoides) and Gilman milkvetch (Astragalus gilmanii) may occur within the allotment. See analysis below for these species. |
| Wild Horses | No | Portions of the Oak Springs Allotment occur within the Delamar Mountains Herd Area. Impacts from livestock grazing on Wild Horses are analyzed on page 4.8-6 of the Proposed Resource Management Plan/Final Environmental Impact Statement (November 2007). Site specific examination of the allotments did not reveal any concerns above those addressed in the EIS. |
| Fish and Wildlife | No | Impacts from livestock grazing on Fish and Wildlife are analyzed on pages 4.6-10 through 4.6-11 in the Ely Proposed Resource Management Plan/Final Environmental Impact Statement (November 2007). There is habitat for mule deer and pronghorn antelope in the allotment. Site specific examination of the allotment did not reveal any concerns above those addressed in the EIS. |
| Soil Resources | No | Impacts from livestock grazing on Soil Resources were analyzed in the Ely Proposed Resource Management Plan/Final Environmental Impact Statement (November 2007) (page 4.4-4). Soils were analyzed in the SDDs and no anticipated impacts other than those described in the proposed action as a result of changing the permit terms. |
| Farmlands (Prime or Unique) | No | The Cliff Springs allotment has 9137 acres and the Oak Springs allotment has 2910 acres of prime farmland. |
| Special Designations other than Designated Wilderness | No | No Special Designations occur within these allotments. |
| VRM | No | The proposed action is consistent with the VRM classification 3 and 4 for the area therefore no direct or cumulative impacts to visual resources would occur. |

| Resource/Concern Considered | Issue(s) Analyzed ? (Y/N) | Rationale for Dismissal from Analysis or Issue(s) Requiring Detailed Analysis |
|---|---|---|
| Grazing Uses | No | The Proposed Action establishes maximum allowable use on key forage plant species and continues the current grazing agreements for the Oak Springs and Cliff Springs Allotments to progress toward achieving the Standards for Rangeland Health. Changes to the Oak Springs and Cliff Springs Allotments seasons of use or grazing rotation systems have been proposed. The Proposed Action and Alternative A is consistent with the need for the action. |
| Land Uses | No | There would be no modifications to land use authorizations through the proposed action therefore no impacts would occur. No direct or cumulative impacts would occur to access and land use. |
| Recreation Uses | No | Design features identified in the proposed action would result in negligible impacts to recreational activities. |
| Paleontological Resources | No | No identified paleontological resources are present in the proposed term permit renewal area. |
| Water Resources | No | Potential impacts to water quality are discussed above. There would be no changes from current uses of water from the proposed action. |
| Mineral Resources | No | There would be no modifications to mineral resources through the proposed action, therefore no direct or cumulative impacts would occur to minerals. |
| Vegetative Resources | No | Impacts from livestock grazing on Vegetation (including Riparian) Resources were analyzed in the Ely Proposed Resource Management Plan/Environmental Impact Statement (November 2007) (page 4.5-9). Vegetation was analyzed in the SDDs. Beneficial impacts to vegetative resources are consistent with the need and objectives for the proposed action. |

*Consultation required unless a "not present" or "no effect" finding is made

The resources/concerns that are not present in the Proposed Action/Alternative A or are affected negligibly by the Proposed Action/alternative A and do not require a detailed analysis include air quality, forest health, migratory birds, Native American Religious Concerns, FWS listed or proposed for listing threatened or endangered species or critical habitat, wastes, hazardous or solid, wilderness, environmental justice, floodplains, special status plant species, special designations other than designated wilderness, VRM, grazing uses, land uses, recreation uses, paleontological resources, and mineral resources.

The resources that have impacts from livestock grazing are disclosed in the Ely Proposed Resource Management Plan/Final Environmental Impact Statement (November 2007) and include Water Resources (page 4.3-5), Soil Resources (page 4.4-4), Vegetation (including Riparian) Resources (page 4.5-9), Fish and Wildlife (pages 4.6-10 through 4.6-11), Wild Horses (page 4.8-6), Cultural Resources (page 4.9-5), Rangeland Standards and Health (pages 4.16-3 through 4.16-4), Watershed Management (page 4.19-8), Special Status Species (page 4.7-28 through 4.7-30), and Noxious and Invasive Weed Management (page 4.21-5). These resources do not require a further detailed analysis.

### 3.2.1 Noxious and Non-native, Invasive Weeds

**Affected Environment**

No field weed surveys were completed for this project. Instead the Ely District weed inventory data was consulted. The following species are found within the boundaries of the Oak Springs and Cliff Springs Allotments:

*Acroptilon repens* Russian knapweed
*Tamarix spp.* Salt cedar

These areas were last inventoried for noxious weeds in 2004. It should be noted that portions of this allotment within the Nellis Air Force Base and no weed inventory data for this area is currently available. While not officially documented the following non-native invasive weeds probably occur in or around both allotments: Red brome (*Bromus rubens*), halogeton (*Halogeton glomeratus*), horehound (*Marrubium vulgare*), and Russian thistle (*Salsola kali*).

**Environmental Consequences**

**Proposed action**

A Noxious and Invasive Weed Risk Assessment was completed for this project and can be found in Appendix III of the attached Standards and Determination Document. The Proposed Action could increase the populations of the noxious and invasive weeds already within the allotments and could aid in the introduction of weeds from surrounding areas. Within the allotments, watering and salt block sites are of particular concern for new weed infestations due to the concentration of livestock around those sites and the amount of ground disturbance. If new weed infestations establish within the allotments this could have an adverse impact those native plant communities however, since there are many weed infestations currently within the allotments, those impacts would be limited. Also, any increase of red brome could alter the fire regime in the area. These impacts would be less than the No-Action Alternative decision due to the deferred grazing season proposed for the Oak Springs and Cliff Springs Allotments. This change would allow for more vigorous native plant communities which could better compete against noxious and non-native invasive plant invasion.

**Alternative Action A**

A Noxious and Invasive Weed Risk Assessment was completed for this project and can be found in Appendix III of the attached Standards and Determination Document. The alternative Action could increase the populations of the noxious and invasive weeds already within the allotments and could aid in the introduction of weeds from surrounding areas. Within the allotments, watering and salt block sites are of particular concern for new weed infestations due to the concentration of livestock around those sites and the amount of ground disturbance. If new weed infestations establish within the allotments this could have an adverse impact those native plant communities however, since there are many weed infestations currently within the allotments, those impacts would be limited. Also, any increase of red brome could alter the fire regime in the area. These impacts would be less than the No-Action Alternative decision due to the rotational grazing system proposed for the Oak Springs and Cliff Springs Allotments. This change would allow for more vigorous native plant communities which could better compete against noxious and non-native invasive plant invasion.

**No Action Alternative**

Impacts to resources/concerns from renewing the permit under the No Action Alternative are described as follows:

Impacts to weed, special status animal and plant species have the same effects as those described under the Proposed Action.

Impacts to rangeland standards and health would progress at a reduced rate. Impacts to wetlands/riparian zones would continue to be unacceptable. Impacts to vegetative resources would not improve as described under the Proposed Action.

### 3.2.2 Special Status Animal Species, other than those listed or proposed by the FWS as Threatened or Endangered

**Affected Environment**

According to the Atlas of the Breeding Birds of Nevada (Floyd et al. 2007) and the Nevada Natural Heritage Program (State of Nevada Department of Conservation and Natural Resources 2006), the following BLM sensitive species may occur within the allotment: desert bighorn sheep (*Ovis canadensis nelsoni),* Desert Valley kangaroo mouse (*Microdipodops megacephalus*), pinyon jay (*Gymnorhinus cyanocephalus*), juniper titmouse (*Baeolophus ridgwayi*), loggerhead shrike (*Lanius ludovicianus*), and gray vireo (*Vireo vicinior*).

**Environmental Consequences**

**Proposed Action**

Deferring grazing during the critical growing season (Mar 15 to May 15) would benefit the BLM sensitive wildlife species because the spring months are generally important to wildlife for nesting, breeding, and other sensitive time periods for reproduction and rearing of young. None of the BLM sensitive bird species located in this allotment nest on the ground, so no trampling of nests is anticipated. The placement of water hauls and dietary supplements at least ½ mile away from riparian areas, waters, and the sensitive species would also minimize impacts to these species. Although BLM sensitive species are present within the allotment, it is unlikely that individuals would be impacted by the livestock grazing as proposed in this EA due to the relative low density of livestock within the allotment.

**Alternative Action A**

No grazing of pastures during the critical growing season (Mar 15 to May 15) on consecutive years would benefit the BLM sensitive wildlife species because the spring months are generally important to wildlife for nesting, breeding, and other sensitive time periods for reproduction and rearing of young. None of the BLM sensitive bird species located in this allotment nest on the ground, so no trampling of nests is anticipated. The placement of water hauls and dietary supplements at least ½ mile away from riparian areas, waters, and the sensitive species would also minimize impacts to these species. Although BLM sensitive species are present within the allotment, it is unlikely that individuals would be impacted by the livestock grazing as proposed in this EA due to the relative low density of livestock within the allotment.

**No Action Alternative**

Impacts to resources/concerns from renewing the permit under the No Action Alternative are described as follows:

Impacts to weed, special status animal and plant species have the same effects as those described under the Proposed Action.

Impacts to rangeland standards and health would progress at a reduced rate. Impacts to wetlands/riparian zones would continue to be unacceptable. Impacts to vegetative resources would not improve as described under the Proposed Action.

### 3.2.3 Special Status Plant Species, other than those listed or proposed by the FWS as Threatened or Endangered

**Affected Environment**

According to the Nevada Natural Heritage Program (State of Nevada Department of Conservation and Natural Resources 2006), BLM sensitive plant species sanicle biscuitroot (*Cymopterus ripleyi* var. *saniculoides*) and Gilman milkvetch (*Astragalus gilmanii*) may occur within the allotment.

**Environmental Consequences**

**Proposed Action**

Deferring grazing during the critical growing season (Mar 15 to May 15) would benefit these BLM sensitive plant species. However, the areas where these plants grow could be impacted by cattle grazing. The placement of water hauls and dietary supplements at least ½ mile away from riparian areas, waters, and the sensitive species would also minimize impacts to these species.

**Alternative Action A**

No grazing of pastures during the critical growing season (Mar 15 to May 15) on consecutive years would benefit these BLM sensitive plant species. However, the areas where these plants grow could be impacted by cattle grazing. The placement of water hauls and dietary supplements at least ½ mile away from riparian areas, waters, and the sensitive species would also minimize impacts to these species.

**No Action Alternative**

Impacts to resources/concerns from renewing the permit under the No Action Alternative are described as follows:

Impacts to weed, special status animal and plant species have the same effects as those described under the Proposed Action.

Impacts to rangeland standards and health would progress at a reduced rate. Impacts to wetlands/riparian zones would continue to be unacceptable. Impacts to vegetative resources would not improve as described under the Proposed Action.

## 4.0 Cumulative Impacts

According to the 1994 BLM publication (attached to WO-IB-94-310) *Guidelines for Assessing and Documenting Cumulative Impacts*, "The cumulative analysis can be focused on those issues and resource values identified by management, the public and others during scoping that are of major importance."

Additionally, the guidance provided in The National BLM NEPA Handbook H-1790-1 (2008), for analyzing cumulative effects issues states, "determine which of the issues identified for analysis may involve a cumulative effect with other past, present, or reasonably foreseeable future actions. If the proposed action and alternatives would have no direct or indirect effects on a resource, you do not need a cumulative effects analysis on that resource (p.57). " Also a comprehensive cumulative impacts analysis can be found on pages 4.28-1 through 4.36-1 of the Ely Proposed Resource Management Plan/Final Environmental Impact Statement (November 2007).

The Cumulative Effects Study Area (CESA) on non-native, invasive species and special status species is defined as the Panaca Valley, Dry Lake Valley, and Meadow Valley watersheds. The project area is within these watersheds.

### 4.1 Past Activities

Livestock grazing has a long history in the region dating back to the late 1800's. Throughout its history, livestock grazing has been characterized by localized areas of intense use. Hunting, trapping, wildlife viewing, and other activities occur on both allotments year round. OHV use may occur on the roads and two-tracks on the allotments. Range improvements have occurred on all allotments to improve grazing management and include fencing and stock water developments.

### 4.2 Present Activities

Both allotments are currently being grazed by livestock. Hunting, trapping, wildlife viewing, and other activities occur on all allotments year round. OHV use may occur on the roads and two-tracks on the allotments. Maintenance of range improvements is ongoing.

### 4.3 Reasonably Foreseeable Future Actions (RFFA)

Hunting, trapping, wildlife viewing, and other activities will probably occur on all allotments year round. OHV use could occur on the roads and two-tracks on the allotments. Maintenance of range improvements is ongoing. New range improvement projects are considered on an annual basis and analyzed on a site specific basis.

### 4.4 Cumulative Effects Summary

Most past and all present and reasonably foreseeable future actions have noxious and invasive weed prevention stipulations and required weed treatment requirements associated with each project. This in combination with the active BLM Ely District Weed Management Program will minimize the spread of weeds throughout the watersheds.

## 5.0 Proposed Mitigation and Monitoring

### 5.1 Proposed Mitigation

Outlined design features incorporated into the Proposed Action are sufficient. No additional mitigation is proposed based on the analysis of environmental consequences.

### 5.2 Proposed Monitoring

Appropriate monitoring has been included as part of the Proposed Action. No additional monitoring is proposed as a result of the impact analysis.

## 6.0 Consultation and Coordination

### 6.1 List of Preparers - BLM Caliente Field Office Resource Specialists

| | |
|---|---|
| Craig Hoover | Rangeland Resources/Project Lead |
| Gina Jones | Ecology, Vegetation |
| Sheri Wysong | Planning and Environmental Coordinator |
| Bonnie Million | Noxious and Invasive, Non-native Species |
| Alicia Styles | Wildlife, Special Status Species, Migratory Birds |
| Kalem Lenard | Recreation, Visual Resources |
| Dave Jacobsen | Wilderness |
| Lisa Gilbert | Cultural Resources |
| Doris Metcalf | Lands |
| Mark D'Aversa | Soil, Water, Air, Wetlands and Riparian |
| Alan Kunze | Geology and Mineral Resources |
| Ruth Thompson | Wild Horse and Burro Resources |
| Melanie Peterson | Hazardous and Solid Waste |
| Elvis Wall | Native American Concerns |
| Chris Mayer | Supervisory Rangeland Management Specialist |

### 6.2 Persons, Groups or Agencies Consulted

The following persons, groups, and agencies were contacted during the preparation of this document.

- **Permittees**
  - Delamar Valley Cattle

●**Nevada Department of Wildlife**
- •Steve Foree

●**Tribal Consultation**
- • Tribal Coordination Letters were sent November 19, 2008. No concerns were identified through coordination.

**Public Notice of Availability**

The preliminary EA and SDD for the Allotments will be sent to interested persons and organizations on the Ely District Rangeland Management Interested Public List.

**References**


Floyd T, Elphick CS, Chisholm G, Mack K, Elston RG, Ammon EM, and Boone JD. 2007. Atlas of the Breeding Birds of Nevada. Reno: University of Nevada Press.

State of Nevada Department of Conservation and Natural Resources. Nevada Natural Heritage Program. 2006. http://heritage.nv.gov.

Swanson, Sherman, Ben Bruce, Rex Cleary, Bill Dragt, Gary Brackley, Gene Fults, James Linebaugh, Gary McCuin, Valerie Metscher, Barry Perryman, Paul Tueller, Diane Weaver, Duane Wilson. 2006. Nevada Rangeland Monitoring Handbook. Second Edition. Educational Bulletin 06-03.

US–A - NRCS 1997. National Range and Pasture Handbook.

USDOI. 2007. Ely Proposed Resource Management Plan/ Final Environmental Impact Statement. U.S. Department of the Interior, Bureau of Land Management. BLM/EL/PL-07/09+1793. DOI No. FES07-40. November 2007.

USDOI. 2008. Ely District Record of Decision and Approved Resource Management Plan. U.S. Department of the Interior, Bureau of Land Management. BLM/NV/EL/PL-GI08/25+1793.

USDOI, Bureau of Land Management. 2008. National Environmental Policy Act. Handbook H-1790-1.

USDOI, Bureau of Land Management. 1994. Guidelines for assessing and documenting cumulative impacts. WO-IB-94-310.

US–I - BLM. 1997. Standards and Guidelines for Nevada's Northeastern Great Basin Area.

# APPENDIX I

## *STANDARDS DETERMINATION DOCUMENT FOR THE OAK SPRINGS AND CLIFF SPRINGS ALLOTMENTS*

**Standards and Guidelines Assessment**

Standards and Guidelines for Grazing Administration were developed by the Mojave-Southern Great Basin Area Resource Advisory Council (RAC) and approved by the Secretary of the Interior on February 12, 1997. Standards and Guidelines are likened to objectives for healthy watersheds, healthy native plant communities, and healthy rangelands. Standards are expressions of physical and biological conditions required for sustaining rangelands for multiple uses. Guidelines point to management actions related to livestock grazing for achieving the Standards.

This Standards Determination Document evaluates and assesses conformance and achievement of the Standards and Guidelines for the Oak Spring and Cliff Springs Allotments in the BLM Ely District. The Cliff Springs Allotment is located in Lincoln County approximately 10 miles West of Caliente, Nevada within the Mojave- Southern Great Basin physiographic region. The Oak Springs Allotment is located in Lincoln County approximately one-half mile West of Caliente, Nevada within the Mojave-Southern Great Basin physiographic region. The following table is of the current livestock permittee authorized to graze stock and the authorized grazing use on both allotments. In 2005 approximately 123,546 acres burned by wildfires on the Oak Springs and associated grazing allotments which Delamar Valley Cattle currently grazes livestock.

**Table 1. Grazing Allotment Permittee Information Summary.**

| Allotment | Livestock Operator | Type of Livestock | Total Active AUMs | Season of Use |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| Oak Springs<br>Cliff Springs | Delamar Valley Cattle<br>Delamar Valley Cattle | Cattle<br>Cattle | 9268<br>2043 | 03/01-02/28<br>03/01-02/28 |

The Oak Springs and Cliff Springs Allotments have one permittee, Delamar Valley Cattle Company (#2705052). This permittee uses these allotments along with other allotments as part of their southern permits for grazing year long. The term "southern permit(s)" is used only as a reference to help clarify which term permit is being renewed with regard to the permittee. The Buckhorn, Delamar, and Lower Lake East grazing Allotments which are on the current term grazing permit with Oak Springs and Cliff Springs Allotments will not be analyzed in this document. These allotments are scheduled to be analyzed in the future in

a separate analysis document with regards to the threatened and endangered species issues present on the allotments. The Oak Springs and Cliff Springs grazing allotments will have a separate grazing permit from the fore mentioned allotments.

Standards for Rangeland Health were assessed by a BLM interdisciplinary team in the fall, 2008 and spring, 2009 on the Allotments. The interdisciplinary team (consisting of Rangeland Management Specialists, Wildlife Biologists, Natural Resource Specialists, Archaeologists, and others) utilized several scientifically based documents and official publications to complete the assessment. These documents include the Lincoln County Soil Survey, South Part (USDA-NRCS 1990), Soil Survey Lincoln County Nevada, North Part, (USDA-NRCS 2007) on Attributes (USDI-BLM et al. 1996), the Nevada Rangeland Monitoring Handbook (USDA-SCS et al. 1984), and the National Range and Pasture Handbook (USDA NRCS 2003). A complete list of references is included as an Appendix to this Standards Determination Document. The interdisciplinary team also used rangeland monitoring data, professional observations, and photographs to assess achievement of the Standards and conformance with the Guidelines.

Vegetation cover studies and livestock utilization studies were completed at the study sites and key areas during the spring of 2008 and spring of 2009. Photographs were taken and professional observations noted. The study sites and key areas have been selected based on accessibility and livestock use patterns.

**Table 2. Oak Springs and Cliff Springs Allotment Information Summary**

| Allotment | Location | Acres | Number of Key Areas |
|---|---|---|---|
| Oak Springs | T.3,4,5,6S. R. 63,64,65E.- Multiple Sections | Public 193,609 Private 1440 | 4 |
| Cliff Springs | T.3S. R.64,65E.- Multiple Sections | Public 35,821 | 3 |

The data collected for this document was analyzed in this assessment. Native vegetation varies throughout the Oak Springs and Cliff Spring Allotments. The dominant vegetation includes but is not limited to four-wing saltbush (*Atriplex canescens*), Nevada ephedra (*Ephedra Nevadensis*), winterfat (*Krasheninnikovia lanata*), spiny hopsage (*Grayia spinosa)*, and Indian ricegrass (A*chnatherum hymenoides)*.

**Table 3. Oak Springs Allotment Key Area Information Summary.**

| Allotment | Key Areas | Ecological Site | Ecological Site Description | Dominant Soil Mapping Unit (SMU) | Studies Completed |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| | | | | | |
| **Oak Springs** | KA-1 | 029XY079NV | Droughty Loam 5-8” | 1471 *Tybo-Koyen, gravelly fine sandy loam, 2 to 4 percent slopes* | Cover and Composition by Line Intercept Method and Utilization |
| | KA-3 | 029XY079NV | Droughty Loam 5-8” | 1471 *Tybo-Koyen, gravelly fine sandy loam, 2 to 4 percent slopes* | Cover and Composition by Line Intercept Method and Utilization |
| | KA-4 | 029XY079NV | Droughty Loam 5-8” | 1510 *Koyen, gravelly sandy loam, 2 to 4 percent slopes* | Cover and Composition by Line Intercept Method and Utilization |
| | KA-6 | 029XY006NV/ 029XY049NV | Loamy 8-10”/ Sandy loam 8-12” | 1730 *Cath-Veet, coarse sandy loam, 2 to 4 percent slopes* | Cover and Composition by Line Intercept Method and Utilization |

**Table 4. Cliff Springs Allotment Key Area Information Summary.**

| Allotment | Key Areas | Ecological Site | Ecological site Description | Dominant Soil Mapping Unit (SMU) | Studies Completed |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| | | | | | |
| **58 Cliff Springs** | KA-1 | 029XY079NV | Droughty Loam 5-8” | 1510 *Koyen, gravelly sandy loam, 2 to 4 percent slopes* | Cover and Composition by Line Intercept Method and Utilization |
| | KA-2 | 029XY042NV | Coarse Silty 5- | 1710 | Cover and Composition by |

| | | | | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| | | | 8” | *Cliff Down, gravelly sandy loam, 4 to 8 percent* | Line Intercept Method and Utilization |
| | | | | | |
| | KA-4 | 029XY079NV | Droughty Loam 5-8” | 1510 *Koyen, gravelly sandy loam, 2 to 4 percent slopes* | Cover and Composition by Line Intercept Method and Utilization |

All scientifically based documents and rangeland monitoring data are available for public inspection at the Ely District Office during business hours.

The following Rangeland Health Standards information has been incorporated into Environmental Assessment DOI-BLM-NV-L030-2009-0020-EA.

**PART 1. STANDARD CONFORMANCE REVIEW**

***Standard 1. Soils***

*“Watershed soils and stream banks should have adequate stability to resist accelerated erosion, maintain soil productivity, and sustain the hydrologic cycle.”*

Soil Indicators:

- Ground Cover (vegetation, litter, rock, bare ground).
- Surfaces (e.g., biological crust, pavement).
- Compaction/infiltration.

Riparian Soil Indicators:

- Stream bank stability.

***Determination:***

□ Achieving the Standard
□ Not Achieving the Standard, but making significant progress towards achieving
**X Not Achieving the Standard, and not making significant progress toward standard**

***Causal Factors***

□ Livestock are a contributing factor to not achieving the standard.
□ Livestock are not a contributing factor to not achieving the standard
**X Failure to meet the standard is related to other issues or conditions**

***Guidelines Conformance:***

□ In conformance with the Guidelines
**X Not in conformance with the Guidelines**

**Table 5. Oak Springs Ground Cover and Utilization Data Summary.**

| Allotment | Key Areas | Ecological Site | Ecological Site Description | Approximate Ground Cover (%) | Existing Ground Cover (%) | Utilization (2009) (*See table A-2) |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| | | | | | | |
| Oak Springs | KA-1 | 029XY079NV | Droughty Loam 5-8” | 20-30 | 20.77 | *Not Apparent |
| | KA-3 | 029XY079NV | Droughty Loam 5-8” | 20-30 | 12.32 | *Not Apparent |
| | KA-4 | 029XY079NV | Droughty Loam 5-8” | 20-30 | 5.61 | HIJA 42% |
| | KA-6 | 029XY006NV/ 029XY049NV | Loamy 8-10”/ Sandy loam 8-12” | 15-25/ 15-25 | 15.23 | *Not Apparent |

* Ocular observations suggest though livestock are currently grazing utilization levels of key forage species are too low to be quantified/determined by the key forage plant method.

**Table 6. Cliff Springs Ground Cover and Utilization Data Summary.**

| Allotment | Key Areas | Ecological Site | Ecological Site Description | Approximate Ground Cover (%) | Existing Ground Cover (%) | Utilization (2008) (*See table A-2) |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| | | | | | | |
| Cliff Springs | KA-1 | 029XY079NV | Droughty Loam 5-8” | 20-30 | 9.01 | KRLA 32% PLJA 24% ARSP 18% |
| | KA-2 | 029XY042NV | Coarse Silty 5-8” | 15-30 | 13.04 | KRLA 21% PLJA 23% ARSP 16% |
| | KA-4 | 029XY079NV | Droughty Loam 5-8” | 20-30 | 7.4 | KRLA 29% ORHY 36% PLJA 38% |

Appropriate cover levels are not present on majority of the key areas on the Cliff Springs and Oak Springs Allotment when compared to the ecological site description guides for each range site. Professional judgment, experience and observation indicate these range key study areas are not meeting the standard and are not making significant progress towards meeting the standard. Current spring grazing use by livestock and livestock numbers may be having an effect on the herbaceous component of the plant community by grazing the key forage species prior to the seed set stage of plant development. This is the most likely causal factor for the absence of herbaceous ground cover on the allotment in combination with recent drought (see Table A-1) and historical (pre-Taylor Grazing Act) overgrazing. Spring grazing use by livestock during the key forage plant species critical growing season (March, April and May) may also be having a contributing effect.

**Table 7. Grazing Allotment Wildfire Burn 2005-2006 Information Summary.**

| Allotment | Total Allotment Acres | Percent of Allotment Burned | Number of Acres burned |
|---|---|---|---|

| | | | |
|---|---|---|---|
| Oak Springs | Public<br>193,609<br>Private<br>1440 | 3% | 5808 |
| Cliff Spring | Public<br>35,821 | 0 | 0 |
| Delamar | Public<br>244,609 | 48.15% | 117,773 |
| Buckhorn | Public<br>80,662 | 7.39% | 5965 |
| Lower Lake East | Public<br>41,800 | 0 | 0 |
| **Total Acres on Southern Allotments** | 586,501 | 22% | 129,546 |

Another contributing effect which may account for the absence of herbaceous ground cover is the loss of grazing forage resources in the 2005 and 2006 wildfires on the Oak Springs, Delamar and Buckhorn Allotments which Delamar Valley Cattle Company grazes livestock in a deferred rotational grazing system. The Delamar and buckhorn allotments are not associated with this grazing permit renewal. This large loss of forage resources on all these allotments from the 2005 wildfires followed by three years of drought (2006-2008; see table A-1) could be contributing to not meeting this standard as higher concentrations of livestock graze on the burned and unburned allotments remaining forage resources.

The wildfire monitoring results are such that the second growing season of the aerial seeding treatment on the Delamar Fire has just begun to establish. Seeded species are still only found at low densities. Introduced perennial bunchgrass *Agropyron cristatum* is beginning to establish within the seeding polygons, albeit at very low densities (Table 2). Many seeded species have not been observed within the burned area. Others, such as

*Penstemon palmeri*, *Poa secunda*, and *Elymus elymoides* are generally found at similarly low densities when comparing seeded and unseeded plots. These are common native plants in the area that tend to regenerate naturally post-fire. The winter and spring prior to the 2007 growing season was relatively dry, further hindering seed germination and seedling survival. Success of the seeding treatment will be better determined in future years since it often takes multiple growing seasons for these treatments to become established.

Invasive annual grasses currently dominate the Delamar Burned Area. The most common species are *Bromus tectorum* and *Bromus rubens*. *Bromus tectorum* is more common in the higher elevations and in the seeding polygons. *Bromus rubens* is more common at lower elevations, in the natural regeneration treatment areas. *Schizmus barbatus* is a third invasive annual grass found within the burned area, but not as common as the two species of *Bromus*. They are found at basically similar densities when comparing seeded and unseeded plots as a whole. Density of invasive annual grasses is highest in the lower elevation, natural regeneration areas.

Perennial plants are naturally regenerating fairly well within the burned pinyon-juniper woodlands. Their density appears to be similar to last year. Native perennial forbs are the most abundant group, with generally more than two plants per square meter on average. The most common species is *Sphaeralcea ambigua*. Other common species include *Heliomeris multiflora*, *Phlox longifolia, and Glandularia goodingii*. In some areas, such as the western seeding polygons, it appears that these fire-following perennials are decreasing in abundance as invasive annual grasses and mustards fill in the interspaces around them.

Resprouting shrubs are common within the Delamar Fire, especially at higher elevations. Common species include *Quercus turbinella*, *Purshia tridentata*, *Purshia mexicana*, *Rhus trilobata*, *Amelanchier alnifolia*, *Yucca baccata*, a variety of species of *Opuntia*, *Ephedra viridis*, *Ephedra nevadensis*, and *Prunus fasiculata*. Resprouting shrubs contribute to the relatively high cover of perennial vegetation found within the seeding polygons and associated control plots

Fire has reduced the kinds, amounts and distribution of vegetation. The plant community has changed from a shrub grass stage to an altered state as a result of the fire. The successional continuum has as a result moved to an early seral stage. The shrub cover and the herbaceous understory cover have decreased. Site stabilization was a primary objective following the fire. The fire was seeded for the purposes of site stabilization. Re-seeding treatments included native and introduced perennials. At this point, much of the burned areas remain dominated by annual grasses with only some perennials. As a result of the fire soil surface stability and watershed function has changed.

**Table 8. Oak Springs Livestock permitted and Actual Use Information Summary.**

| Allotment | Livestock Permittees | Kind of Livestock | Average Actual-AUMs (2003-2008) | Percent of Total Active AUMs | Total Active AUMs | Season of Use |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| Oak Springs | Delamar Valley Cattle Co. | Cattle | 3041 | 33 | 9268 | 03/01-02/28 |

Livestock licensed use on the Oak Springs Allotment for cattle has ranged from (16%) to (69%) of total active AUMs during the seven year period 2003 – 2008.

**Table 9. Cliff Springs Livestock permitted and Actual Use Information Summary.**

| Allotment | Livestock Permittees | Kind of Livestock | Average Actual-AUMs (2003-2008) | Percent of Total Active AUMs | Total Active AUMs | Season of Use |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| Cliff Springs | Delamar Valley Cattle Co. | Cattle | 941 | 47 | 2043 | 03/01-02/28 |

Livestock licensed use on the Cliff Springs Allotment for cattle has ranged from (25%) to (67%) of total active AUMs during the seven year period 2003 – 2008.

***Standard 2. Ecosystem Components***

*Watersheds should possess the necessary ecological components to achieve State water quality criteria, maintain ecological processes, and sustain appropriate uses.*

*Riparian and wetlands vegetation should have structural and species diversity characteristic of the stage of stream channel succession in order to provide forage and cover, capture sediment, and capture, retain, and safely release water (watershed function).*

Upland Indicators:

- Canopy and ground cover, including litter, live vegetation, biological crust, and rock appropriate to potential of the ecological site.
- Ecological processes are adequate for the vegetative communities.

Riparian Indicators:

- Stream side riparian areas are functioning properly when adequate vegetation, large woody debris, or rock is present to dissipate stream energy associated with high water flows.
- Elements indicating proper functioning condition such as avoiding acceleration erosion, capturing sediment, and providing for groundwater recharge and release are determined by the following measurements as appropriate to the site characteristics:
    - Width/Depth ratio.
    - Channel roughness.
    - Sinuosity of stream channel.
    - Bank stability.
    - Vegetative cover (amount, spacing, life form).
    - Other covers (large woody debris, rock).
    - Natural springs, seeps and marsh areas are functioning properly when adequate vegetation is present to facilitate water retention, filtering, and release as indicated by plant species and cover appropriate to the site characteristics.

Water Quality Indicators:

- Chemical, physical and biological constituents do not exceed the State water quality Standards.

<u>All spring and water sources assessed on the allotment were developed. The riparian portion of the standard is not applicable.</u>

The above indicators shall be applied to the potential of the upland ecological site.

***Determination:***
□ Achieving the Standard
□ Not Achieving the Standard, but making significant progress towards achieving
**X Not Achieving the Standard, and not making significant progress toward standard.**

***Causal Factors***
□ Livestock are a contributing factor to not achieving the standard.
□ Livestock are not a contributing factor to not achieving the standard
**X** Failure to meet the standard is related to other issues or conditions.

***Guidelines Conformance:***
□ In conformance with the Guidelines
**X Not in conformance with the Guidelines**

**<u>Table 10. PROPER FUNCTIONING CONDITION (PFC) OF RIPARIAN AREAS 0N OAK SPRINGS AND CLIFF SPRINGS ALLOTMENTS</u>**

| Name | Location (UTM) | Date | PFC Rating | Species Observed |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| Cliff Springs | 11 S<br>N 4172407<br>E 0702480 | 11/05/2008 | Developed | N/A |
| Nelson Springs | 11 S<br>N 4165716<br>E 0703671 | 11/05/2008 | Proper Functioning | Carex, Juncus, Poa, Distychlis, Chryothamnus, Achillea, Juniperus |
| Dana Spring | 11 S<br>N 4171923<br>E 0702411 | 11/05/2008 | Developed | N/A |
| Rabbit Spring | 11 S<br>N 4172398<br>E 0702474 | 05/06/2008 | Proper Functioning | Not Recorded |
| Tyler Spring | 11 S<br>N 4162656<br>E 0700574 | 12/08/2008 | Non-Functional | None Present |
| Coyote Spring | 11S<br>N 4152863<br>E 0700425 | 12/08/2008 | Functioning at risk with upward trend | Not Recorded-(Winter) |
| Lower Indian Spring | 11S<br>N 4147250<br>E 071630 | 08/16/2006 | Non-functional | Not Recorded |
| Buckboard Spring | 11S<br>N 4162809<br>E 0709180 | 08/14/2006 | Functioning at risk | Not Recorded |
| North Ash Canyon Seeding | 11S<br>N 4153418<br>E 0725156 | 08/17/2006 | Functioning at risk | Not Recorded |
| Spring # 292 | 11S<br>N 4145172<br>E 0707767 | 08/16/2008 | Non-functional | Poa, Rose hips, water cress |
| Willow Spring | 11S<br>N 4158891<br>E 0703401 | 08/16/2006 | Functioning at risk | Russian olive, sedges,rushes, service berry, Artemisia,salix |
| Bishop Spring | 11S<br>N 4143695<br>E 0708893 | 08/16/2006 | Non-functional | Not Recorded |

| Name | Location (UTM) | Date | PFC Rating | Species Observed |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| Spring # 294 | 11S<br>N 4147394<br>E 0707202 | 08/16/2006 | Non-functional | Not Recorded |
| Spring #295 | 50yards S of Spring #294 | 08/16/2006 | Non-functional | Not Recorded |

**Conclusion:**

The riparian and water quality portion of the standard is not being met. Only six of the twelve undeveloped riparian areas/springs were in non-functioning condition at the time their assessment. The adjustments in the season of use and utilization levels of the riparian areas within the Oak Springs and Cliff Springs Allotments will be addressed more specifically in the Part 4: "Management Practices To Conform With Guidelines and Achieve Standards" and with regards to the grazing permittee in the environmental analysis (EA) document and the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) process.

Ecological processes are defined by the Standards and Guidelines for Nevada's Mojave-Southern Great Basin Area as "Natural functions including the hydrologic cycle, the nutrient cycle, and energy flow (see also 43 CFR 4180.01(b))." The fires have reduced the kinds, amounts and distribution of vegetation. The reduced amount of shrubs and grasses is not adequate to maintain or promote ecological processes. The reduced amount of vegetation prevents appropriate inputs of organic matter into the soil surface. Organic matter adds to the porosity of the soil and is necessary for proper infiltration and reduced runoff. The reduced amount of plants and plant growth will also impact root systems which will affect soil surface stability and organic matter. The changes in the composition and presence of plant species especially grasses and shrubs affect the contribution of roots to soil organic matter. Lack of basal and canopy cover promotes soil surface erosion and infiltration rates. The reduced amount of basal and canopy cover will affect these processes resulting in increased soil surface erosion and reduced infiltration rates. The impact and duration of the ecological processes will be dependent upon vegetative recovery. The fires have initially reduced the amount of plant residue added to the soil. If the fire results in a shift from shrubs to grasses, however, the long-term effect can be an increase in soil stability and organic matter.

***Standard 3. Habitat and Biota:***

As indicated by:

- Vegetation composition (relative abundance of species);
- Vegetation structure (life forms, cover, height, or age class);
- Vegetation distribution (patchiness, corridors);
- Vegetation productivity; and
- Vegetation nutritional value.

***Determination:***
□ Achieving the Standard
□ Not Achieving the Standard, but making significant progress towards achieving
**X Not Achieving the Standard, and not making significant progress toward standard**.

***Causal Factors***
□ Livestock are a contributing factor to not achieving the standard.
X **Livestock are not a contributing factor to not achieving the standard**
□ Failure to meet the standard is related to other issues or conditions

***Guidelines Conformance:***
□ In Conformance with the Guidelines
**X Not in Conformance with the Guidelines**

Conclusion: *Standard not achieved*

Findings: Monitoring data results describing current resource conditions for Key study areas in the Oak Spring and Cliff Springs Allotments as they relate to the above Habitat Standard and habitat indicators are as follows:

The "Soil Survey of Lincoln County, Nevada, South Part, Part I" information, field observations, field data and professional judgment were used in this assessment to describe and compare the dominant potential vegetation in the Oak Springs and Cliff Springs Allotments with the current existing vegetation communities.

**Oak Springs Potential Natural Community characteristics of Upland Vegetation Communities**

**Table 11. Oak Springs Potential Plant Community Characteristics Summary.**

| Allotment | Key Areas | Ecological site | Potential Dominant Plant Species (*See table A-2) | Composition of Potential Plant Community as Defined by Ecological Site Guides | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| | | | | Shrub | Forb | Grass |
| | KA-1 | 029XY079NV | ACHY,ACSP12,MUPO2 PLJA,SPHAE,GRSP, EPNE,ATCA2,KRLA2, ARSP5 | 40-60 | Trace-10 | 30-55 |

| Allotment | Key Areas | Ecological site | Potential Dominant Plant Species (*See table A-2) | Composition of Potential Plant Community as Defined by Ecological Site Guides | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| **Oak Springs** | KA-3 | 029XY079NV | ACHY,ACSP12,MUPO2 PLJA,SPHAE,GRSP, EPNE,ATCA2,KRLA2, ARSP5 | 40-60 | Trace-10 | 30-55 |
| | KA-4 | 029XY079NV | ACHY,ACSP12,MUPO2 PLJA,SPHAE,GRSP, EPNE,ATCA2,KRLA2, ARSP5 | 40-60 | Trace-10 | 30-55 |
| | KA-6 | 029XY006NV | ACHY,HECO, ACSP12,PHLOX, ARTRw,ATCA2,EPNE, GRSP | 25-50 | Trace-5 | 30-60 |

**Cliff Springs Potential Natural Community Characteristics of Upland Vegetation Communities**

**Table 12. Cliff Springs Potential Plant Community Characteristics Summary.**

| Allotment | Key Areas | Ecological site | Potential Dominant Plant Species (*See table A-2) | Composition of Potential Plant Community as Defined by Ecological Site Guides | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| | | | | Shrub | Forb | Grass |
| Cliff Springs | KA-1 | 029XY079NV | ACHY,ACSP12,MUPO2 PLJA,SPHAE,GRSP, EPNE,ATCA2,KRLA2, ARSP5 | 40-60 | Trace-10 | 30-55 |
| | KA-2 | 029XY042NV | ACHY,PLJA,ELEL5, SPHAE,KRLA2,ARSP5, ATCA2 | 35-65 | 10-15 | 50-70 |
| | | | | | | |
| | KA-4 | 029XY079NV | ACHY,ACSP12,MUPO2 PLJA,SPHAE,GRSP, EPNE,ATCA2,KRLA2, ARSP5 | 40-60 | Trace-10 | 30-55 |

The vegetation within the Oak Springs and Cliff springs Allotment should be diverse with saltbush/shrub/grass plant communities dominating. The major plant components within the allotment should be four-wing saltbush (*Atriplex canescens*), Nevada ephedra (*Ephedra Nevadensis*), winterfat (*Krasheninnikovia lanata*), spiny hopsage (*Grayia spinosa)*, dessert needlegrass, and Indian ricegrass. Together, all these species should be the dominant vegetative species on more than 70% of the total area of the allotment.

**Current Community characteristics of Upland Vegetation Communities in the Oak Springs Allotment.**

**Table 13. Oak Springs Allotment Key Area Current Plant Community Data Summarization.**

| Allotment | Key Areas | Ecological site | Plant Species Observed (*See table A-2) | Composition of Plant Community by Line Intercept Method | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| | | | | Shrub | Forb | Grass |
| | KA-1 | 029XY079NV | KRLA2,ACHY,CHVI | 93% | 0 | 7% |

| | | | | | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| | KA-3 | 029XY079NV | EPNE, ATCA2 ,CHVI, OPPO | 99% | 1% | 0 |
| | KA-4 | 029XY079NV | ARSP5,PLJA, SPHAE | 27.7% | 2.7% | 69.6% |
| | KA-6 | 029XY006NV | ARTRw,PUST | 100% | 0 | 0 |

The 2009 cover by species data for all the key areas show the present dominant vegetation consists of winterfat, Galleta grass, Wyoming sagebrush and Nevada Ephedra. On three out of four key areas, these dominant vegetation components within their respective plant communities comprise 93% to 100% on the key areas, by composition, of the present vegetation community with respect to the specific key area locations. Ideally, these vegetation communities should contain a shrub cover component less than what currently exists, approximately 40-60%, a grass/forb cover component greater than what currently exists, 30-60%, depending on the specific ecological site, as stated in the "Soil Survey of White Pine County, Nevada, West Part" information. There is a concern over the disproportionate amount of shrubs species and the absence of perennial grass and forb species within the plant community type in the allotment. The native vegetation consists of essentially a trace to no native grasses mixed with trace amounts of the invasive annual grasses red brome and cheatgrass. Key area four has a more desirable plant community composition than the rest of the key areas with regards to life form (i.e. shrub, forb, or grass) but plant species diversity is lacking when compared to the Potential Natural Community criteria.

Professional observations suggest the vegetation composition changes along the elevation gradient and plant communities are separated by small hills and gullies on the lower mountain benches and there should be a mosaic and a "mix" of plant communities and ecological sites, including sites dominated by winterfat, Nevada ephedra, saltbush and rabbitbrush.

**Current Community characteristics of Upland Vegetation Communities in the Cliff Springs Allotment**.

**Table 14. Cliff Springs Allotment Key Area Current Plant Community Data Summarization.**

| Allotment | Key Areas | Ecological site | Plant Species Observed (*See table A-2) | Composition of Existing Plant Community by Line Intercept Method | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| | | | | Shrub | Forb | Grass |
| Cliff | KA-1 | 029XY079NV | KRLA2,ARSP5,PLJA, AAFF,CRYPT | 93% | 4% | 3% |

| | | | | | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| | KA-2 | 029XY042NV | KRLA2,ARSP5,TEGL, PHLOX,PLJA,CHVI, SIHY | 64% | 36% | 0 |
| | | | | | | |
| | KA-4 | 029XY079NV | KRLA2,CHVI,PLJA, ARSP5,ACHY | 91% | 0 | 9% |

The 2009 cover by species data for all the key areas show the present dominant vegetation consists of winterfat, bud sagebrush and rabbitbrush. These three vegetation components within their respective plant communities comprise the dominant species on the key areas, by composition, of the present vegetation community with respect to the specific key area locations. Ideally, these vegetation communities should contain a shrub cover component less than what currently exists, approximately 40-60%, and a grass/forb cover component greater than what currently exists, 30-70%, depending on the specific ecological site, as stated in the "Soil Survey of White Pine County, Nevada, West Part" information. There is a concern over the disproportionate amount of shrubs species and the absence of perennial grass and forb species within the plant community type in the allotment. The native vegetation consists of essentially of a trace to no native grasses mixed with trace amounts of the invasive annual grasses red brome and cheatgrass.

Professional observations suggest the vegetation composition changes along the elevation gradient and plant communities are separated by small hills and gullies on the lower mountain benches and there should be a mosaic and a "mix" of plant communities and ecological sites, including sites dominated by winterfat, Nevada ephedra, saltbush and rabbitbrush.

**PART 2. ARE LIVESTOCK A CAUSAL FACTOR TO NOT MEETING THE STANDARDS?**

Though standards are not being met on the allotments current spring grazing use (March, April and May) without a deferred, rest , or rest rotation grazing system in place by livestock may be having a contributing effect on the herbaceous component of the plant community by grazing the key forage species prior to the seed set stage of plant development. This in combination with a recent three year severe drought and historical (pre-Taylor Grazing Act) grazing management is the most likely causal factors for the absence of herbaceous ground cover on the allotment. These three factors would most likely be the primal cause(s) for the allotments not meeting standards. Each factor exacerbates the adverse effects of the others.

**PART 3. GUIDELINE CONFORMANCE REVIEW GUIDELINES:**

Standard 1, 2, and 3 are not in conformance with all applicable Guidelines as provided in the Mojave-Southern Great Basin Standards and Guidelines.

## PART 4. MANAGEMENT PRACTICES TO CONFORM WITH GUIDELINES AND ACHIEVE STANDARDS

The new term permit would include terms and conditions for grazing use that achieve, or make significant progress towards achieving the Standards and Guidelines for Grazing Administration and the other pertinent land use objectives for livestock use. The term and conditions include but not be limited to:

1. Change the livestock grazing season of use on the Oak Springs and Cliff Springs Allotments so that it corresponds to the appropriate season of use with regards to key forage plant species critical growing season and physiology principles. The change in the season of use should rest or defer grazing on key forage plant species during the critical growing period. This season of rest or deferment would be from March 15 to May 15. The change in the livestock season of use outside the key forage plant critical growing period should allow greater and swifter progress toward achieving the standards and guideline for grazing. The change in the season of use will be addressed more specifically with regards to individual grazing permittees in the environmental analysis (EA) document and the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) process.

2. A voluntary reduction in livestock numbers may be implemented on a case by case, allotment by allotment, pasture by pasture and season by season basis where appropriate. If employed, the reduction in livestock numbers should allow greater and swifter progress toward achieving the standards and guideline for grazing. The change in the livestock numbers will be addressed more specifically with regards to the grazing permittee in the environmental analysis (EA) document and the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) process.

3. Fencing of riparian areas should be a priority. Until such a time, hot season grazing (June 1 thru August 31) should be avoided on all spring and riparian areas. If hot season spring and riparian grazing does occur, when an average of 35% use is reached at these sites, the cattle will be removed from the spring and riparian pasture within five days.

4. An allowable use level for the Oak Springs and Cliff Springs Allotments will be established as 50% of the current year's growth by weight for the key native species Ephera, Saltbush (Atriplex spp.),Galleta grass, Indian ricegrass and winterfat. Utilization will be measured at established key grazing areas or other sites representative of the dominant vegetation in the use area. When an average of 50% use is reached at these sites, the cattle will be removed from the pasture within five days. .

5. The BLM and the Livestock permittees will work together on an annual basis to identify livestock management practices to be implemented for each year on the Oak Springs and Cliff Springs Allotment. Annual grazing may be modified

from the terms and conditions listed above in consideration of climatic conditions such as drought, forage availability, wildfire locations, and/or other factors, as long as vegetative objectives are met.

6. Grazing use will be in accordance with Standards and Guidelines for Rangeland Health.

7. The permittee will be required to perform normal maintenance on the range improvements that have been or will be assigned to the permitee through approved cooperative agreements or section 4 permits.

8. During the ten year period of this term permit renewal, the BLM and Livestock permittees will monitor the Oak Springs and Cliff Springs Allotment for resource conditions in order to determine the effectiveness of the term permit renewal in achieving or making progress towards achieving the Standards for Rangeland Health. The Livestock permittees will be encouraged to participate in the monitoring. Rangeland monitoring may be conducted both prior to and following annual use. Monitoring conducted prior to annual use will determine areas of forage availability and cattle stocking levels. Monitoring conducted following grazing use will determine utilization levels and use patterns. Specific rangeland monitoring studies could include cover studies, ecological condition studies, key forage plant method utilization transects, use pattern mapping, frequency trend, observed apparent trend, professional observation, and photographs.

9. Maintain the stocking level at current active AUMs for the livestock permittee on the Oak Springs and Cliff Springs Allotment.

10. Supplement locations should be moved every year.

11. Salt blocks and nutritional supplements will be located at least ¼ mile away from riparian/wetland areas, water ditches, or other permanently located or natural water sources.

12. Utilization of winterfat areas should not exceed 35% during the critical growing season under any circumstances.

13. Locate water haul sites at least ½ miles away from winterfat dominated sites.

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**Prepared by:**

Craig Hoover
Rangeland Management Specialist

Date

**Reviewed by:**

Bonnie Million.
Noxious and invasive non-native species

Date

| | |
|---|---|
| Mark D'Aversa,<br>Soil/water/floodplains/riparian/wetlands | Date |
| Ben Noyes<br>Wild horses and burros | Date |
| Alicia Styles<br>Wildlife/migratory birds/special status animals/plants | Date |
| Gina Jones<br>Ecologist | Date |

**I concur:**

| | |
|---|---|
| Chris Mayer<br>Supervisory Rangeland Management Specialist<br>Ely District | Date |
| Victoria Barr<br>Field Manager<br>Caliente Field Office | Date |

## APPENDIX II

**Table A- 1**

| Year | Annual Precipitation |
|---|---|
| 1996 | 8.40 |
| 1997 | 5.97 |
| 1998 | 14.55 |

| | |
|---|---|
| 1999 | 7.6 |
| 2000 | 10.43 |
| 2001 | 7.00 |
| 2002 | 2.17 |
| 2003 | 8.04 |
| 2004 | 9.58 |
| 2005 | 11.58 |
| 2006 | 6.60 |
| 2007 | 4.69 |
| 2008 | 4.13 |

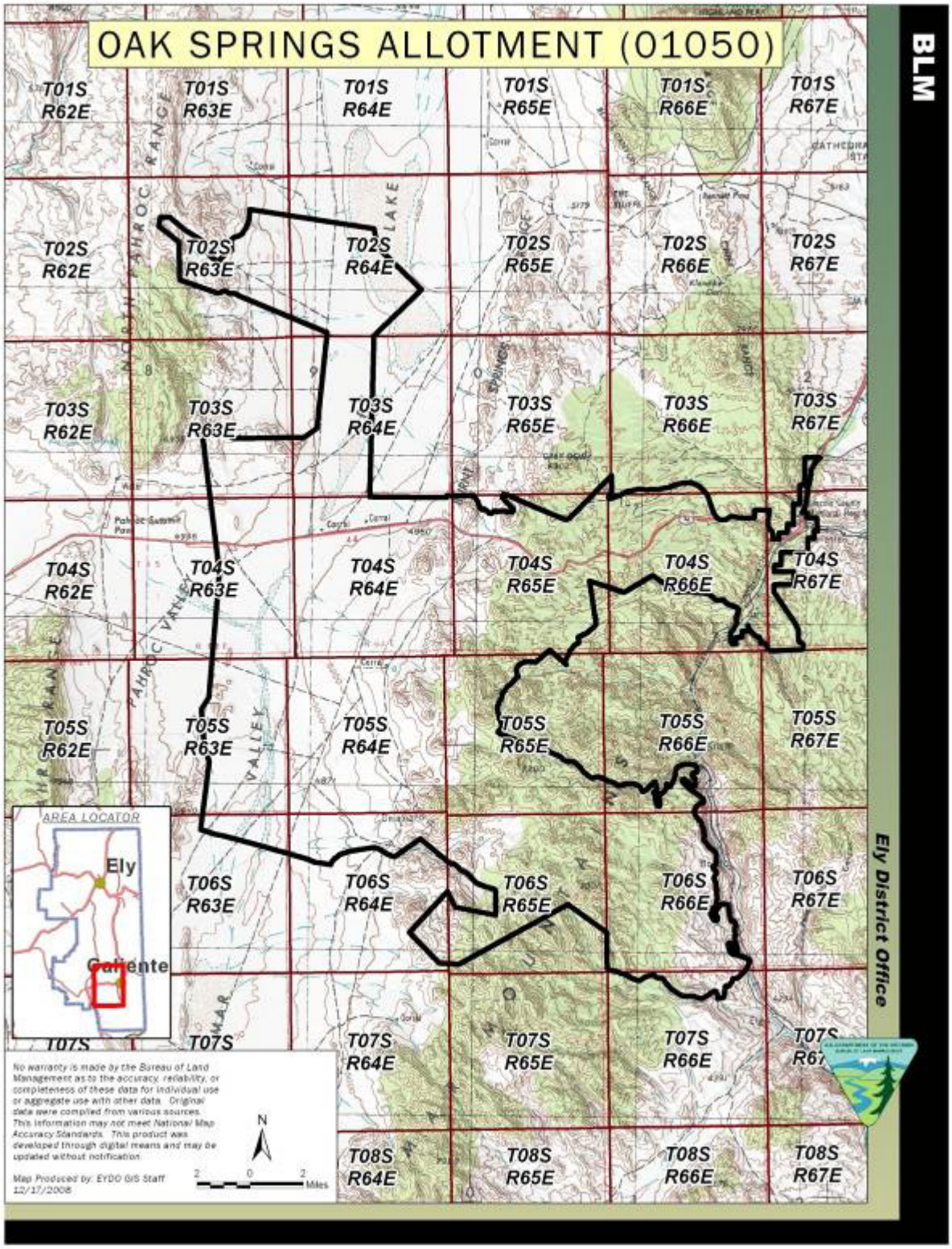
The above precipitation data by year is presented for the Oak Springs Grazing Allotment rain can data as summarized by the BLM Caliente Field Office. The precipitation totals are for annual precipitation, or that moisture (including snow) measured from January through December. This is effective moisture for plant growth. The average precipitation for this region is seven to ten inches per year. Five of the thirteen years listed above are below this average. This represents drought conditions.

**Table A-2**

| Plant Common Name | Plant Symbol |
|---|---|
| Wyoming sagebrush | ARTRw |
| Winterfat | KRLA2 |
| Nevada ephedra | EPNE |
| Fourwing saltbush | ATCA2 |
| Spiny hopsage | GRSP |
| Bud sagebrush | ARSP5 |

| | |
|---|---|
| Indian ricegrass | ACHY |
| Needle and thread | HECO |
| Desert needlegrass | ACSP12 |
| Galleta | PLJA |
| Bush muhly | MUPO2 |
| Globemallow | SPHAE |
| Bottlebrush Squirreltail | ELEL5 |
| Prickly pear | OPPO |
| Phlox | PHLOX |
| Cliffrose | PUST |
| Low Rabbitbrush | CHVI |
| Miner's candle | CRYPT |
| Annual forb | AAFF |
| Squirreltail | SIHY |
| Horsebush | TEGL |

**Figure1.**


OAK SPRINGS ALLOTMENT (01050)
BLM
Ely District Office
T01S R62E
T01S R63E
T01S R64E
T01S R65E
T01S R66E
T01S R67E
T02S R62E
T02S R63E
T02S R64E
T02S R65E
T02S R66E
T02S R67E
T03S R62E
T03S R63E
T03S R64E
T03S R65E
T03S R66E
T03S R67E
T04S R62E
T04S R63E
T04S R64E
T04S R65E
T04S R66E
T04S R67E
T05S R62E
T05S R63E
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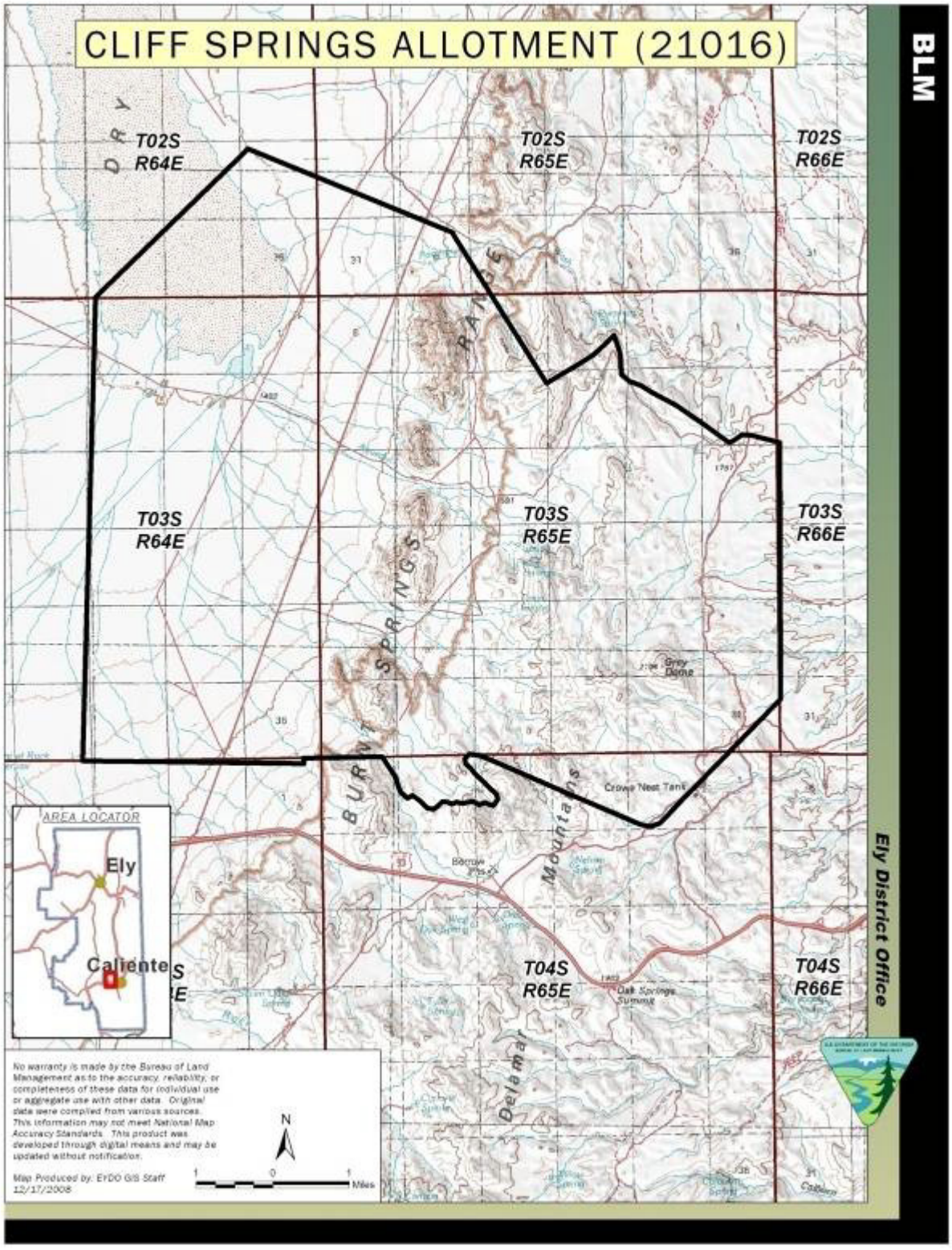
T05S R67E
T06S R63E
T06S R64E
T06S R65E
T06S R66E
T06S R67E
T07S R64E
T07S R65E
T07S R66E
T08S R64E
T08S R65E
T08S R66E
T08S R67E
AREA LOCATOR
Ely
Caliente
No warranty is made by the Bureau of Land Management as to the accuracy, reliability, or completeness of these data for individual use or aggregate use with other data. Original data were compiled from various sources. This information may not meet National Map Accuracy Standards. This product was developed through digital means and may be updated without notification.
Map Produced by: EYDO GIS Staff
12/17/2008
N
2 0 2
Miles

**Figure 2.**


CLIFF SPRINGS ALLOTMENT (21016)
BLM
T02S R64E
T02S R65E
T02S R66E
T03S R64E
T03S R65E
T03S R66E
T04S R65E
T04S R66E
DRY
RAILS
BURNT SPRINGS
Mountains
Delamar
Crowe Nest Tank
Gray Dome
Oak Springs Summit
AREA LOCATOR
Ely
Caliente
Ely District Office
No warranty is made by the Bureau of Land Management as to the accuracy, reliability, or completeness of these data for individual use or aggregate use with other data. Original data were compiled from various sources. This information may not meet National Map Accuracy Standards. This product was developed through digital means and may be updated without notification.
Map Produced by: EYDO GIS Staff
12/17/2008
N
1 0 1
Miles

## APPENDIX III

## RISK ASSESSMENT FOR NOXIOUS & INVASIVE WEEDS
**Term Grazing Permit Renewal for Delamar Valley Cattle**
**Oak Springs & Cliff Springs Allotments**
**Lincoln County, Nevada**

On January 9, 2009 a Noxious & Invasive Weed Risk Assessment was completed for the term grazing permit renewals for Delamar Valley Cattle on the Oak Springs and Cliff Springs Allotments in Lincoln County, NV. The Oak Springs and Cliff Springs Allotments are located less than seven miles west of Caliente, Nevada within the Great Basin physiographic region. The current permit allows Delamar Valley Cattle to graze cattle. Potential changes could occur to the permit based upon a review of rangeland health standards. The current term permits and allotment information for the permittee is as follows:

| ALLOTMENT | | LIVESTOCK TYPE | GRAZING PERIOD | | Total Permitted AUMs |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| Name | Public Acres | | Begin | End | |
| Oak Springs | 193,609 | Cattle | 03/01 | 02/28 | 14,997 |
| Cliff Springs | 35,821 | Cattle | 03/01 | 02/28 | 3,243 |

No field weed surveys were completed for this project. Instead the Ely District weed inventory data was consulted. The following species are found within the boundaries of the Oak Springs Allotment:

| | |
|---|---|
| *Acroptilon repens* | Russian knapweed |
| *Ailanthus altissima* | Tree of heaven |
| *Carduus nutans* | Musk thistle |
| *Centaurea stoebe* | Spotted knapweed |
| *Cirsium vulgare* | Bull thistle |
| *Conium maculatum* | Poison hemlock |
| *Lepidium draba* | Hoary cress |
| *Lepidium latifolium* | Tall whitetop |
| *Onopordum acanthium* | Scotch thistle |
| *Tamarix spp.* | Salt cedar |

The following species are found within the boundaries of the Cliff Springs Allotment:

| | |
|---|---|
| *Onopordum acanthium* | Scotch thistle |

The following species are found along roads and drainages leading to the allotment:

| | |
|---|---|
| *Acroptilon repens* | Russian knapweed |
| *Ailanthus altissima* | Tree of heaven |
| *Carduus nutans* | Musk thistle |
| *Centaurea stoebe* | Spotted knapweed |
| *Cirsium vulgare* | Bull thistle |
| *Conium maculatum* | Poison hemlock |
| *Lepidium draba* | Hoary cress |
| *Lepidium latifolium* | Tall whitetop |
| *Linaria dalmatica* | Dalmatian toadflax |

| | |
|---|---|
| *Onopordum acanthium* | Scotch thistle |
| *Tribulus terrestris* | Puncturevine |
| *Tamarix spp.* | Salt cedar |

These areas were last inventoried for noxious weeds in 2006. While not officially documented the following non-native invasive weeds probably occur in or around both allotments: cheatgrass (*Bromus tectorum*), field bindweed (*Convolvulus arvensis*), Russian olive (*Elaeagnus angustifolia*), halogeton (*Halogeton glomeratus*), horehound (*Marrubium vulgare*), and Russian thistle (*Salsola kali*).

**Factor 1 assesses the likelihood of noxious/invasive weed species spreading to the project area.**

| | |
|---|---|
| None (0) | Noxious/invasive weed species are not located within or adjacent to the project area. Project activity is not likely to result in the establishment of noxious/invasive weed species in the project area. |
| Low (1-3) | Noxious/invasive weed species are present in the areas adjacent to but not within the project area. Project activities can be implemented and prevent the spread of noxious/invasive weeds into the project area. |
| Moderate (4-7) | Noxious/invasive weed species located immediately adjacent to or within the project area. Project activities are likely to result in some areas becoming infested with noxious/invasive weed species even when preventative management actions are followed. Control measures are essential to prevent the spread of noxious/invasive weeds within the project area. |
| High (8-10) | Heavy infestations of noxious/invasive weeds are located within or immediately adjacent to the project area. Project activities, even with preventative management actions, are likely to result in the establishment and spread of noxious/invasive weeds on disturbed sites throughout much of the project area. |

For this project, the factor rates as Moderate (7) at the present time. The proposed action could increase the populations of the noxious and invasive weeds already within the allotments and could aid in the introduction of weeds from surrounding areas. Within the allotments, watering and salt block sites are of particular concern of new weed infestations due to the concentration of livestock around those sites and the amount of ground disturbance associated with that. This risk is increased due to the year ground raising authorized in the current permit. If the new permit changes to season of use outside of the critical growing season this rating would be lower.

**Factor 2 assesses the consequences of noxious/invasive weed establishment in the project area.**

| | |
|---|---|
| Low to Nonexistent (1-3) | None. No cumulative effects expected. |
| Moderate (4-7) | Possible adverse effects on site and possible expansion of infestation within the project area. Cumulative effects on native plant communities are likely but limited. |
| High (8-10) | Obvious adverse effects within the project area and probable expansion of noxious/invasive weed infestations to areas outside the project area. Adverse cumulative effects on native plant communities are probable. |

This project rates as Moderate (7) at the present time. If new weed infestations establish within the allotments this could have an adverse impact those native plant communities however, since there are many weed infestations currently within the allotments, those impacts would be limited. Also, any increase of cheatgrass could alter the fire regime in the area.

**The Risk Rating is obtained by multiplying Factor 1 by Factor 2.**

| | |
|---|---|
| None (0) | Proceed as planned. |
| Low (1-10) | Proceed as planned. Initiate control treatment on noxious/invasive weed populations that get established in the area. |
| Moderate (11-49) | Develop preventative management measures for the proposed project to reduce the risk of introduction of spread of noxious/invasive weeds into the area. Preventative management |

| | |
|---|---|
| | measures should include modifying the project to include seeding the area to occupy disturbed sites with desirable species. Monitor the area for at least 3 consecutive years and provide for control of newly established populations of noxious/invasive weeds and follow-up treatment for previously treated infestations. |
| High (50-100) | Project must be modified to reduce risk level through preventative management measures, including seeding with desirable species to occupy disturbed site and controlling existing infestations of noxious/invasive weeds prior to project activity. Project must provide at least 5 consecutive years of monitoring. Projects must also provide for control of newly established populations of noxious/invasive weeds and follow-up treatment for previously treated infestations. |

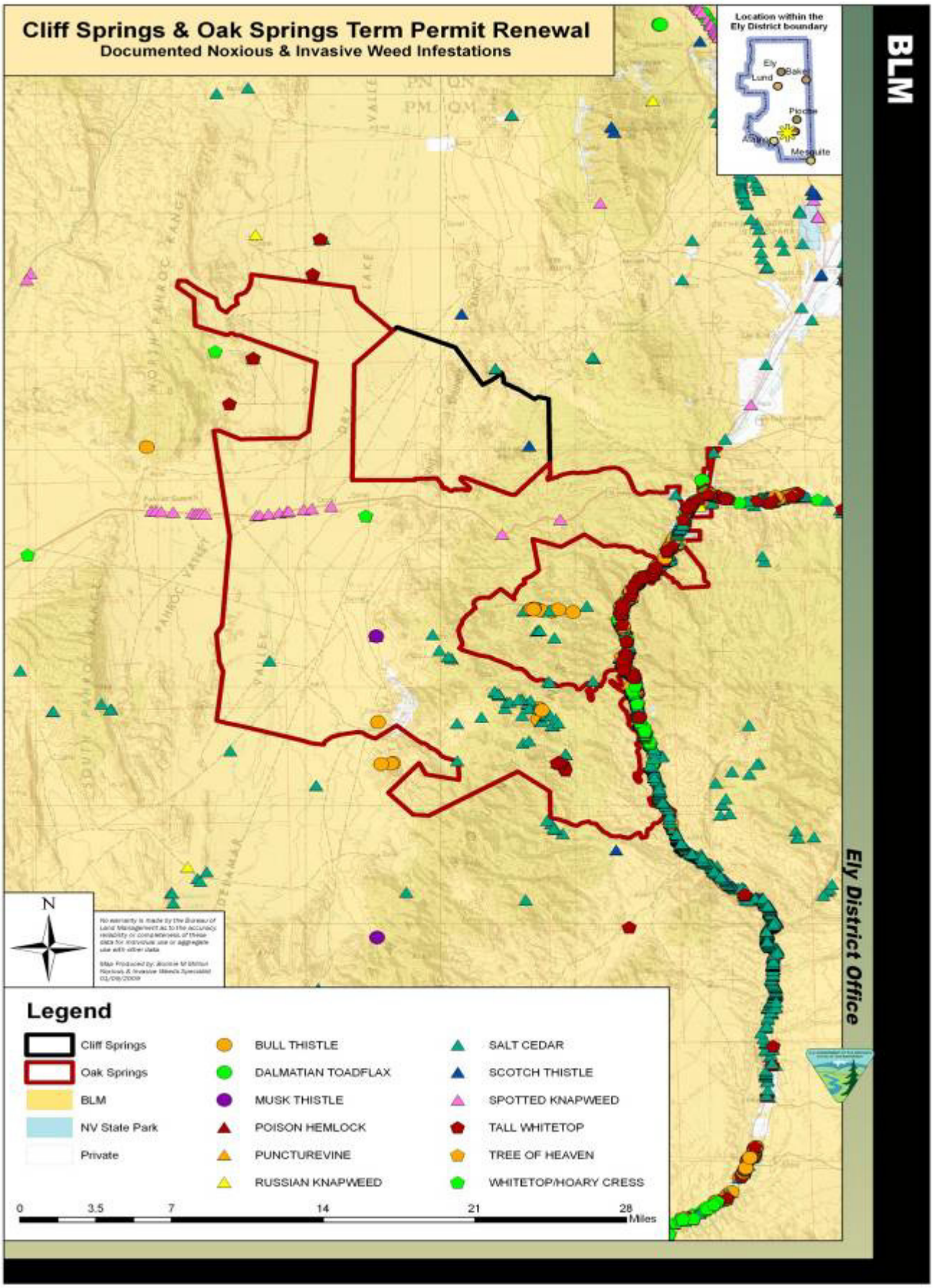
For this project, the Risk Rating is Moderate (49). This indicates that the project can proceed as planned as long as the following measures are followed:

- To eliminate the introduction of noxious weed seeds, roots, or rhizomes all interim and final seed mixes, hay, straw, hay/straw, or other organic products used for feed or bedding will be certified free of plant species listed on the Nevada noxious weed list or specifically identified by the BLM Ely District Office.
- Prior to entering public lands, the BLM will provide information regarding noxious weed management and identification to the permit holders affiliated with the project. The importance of preventing the spread of weeds to uninfested areas and importance of controlling existing populations of weeds will be explained.
- The range specialist for the allotments will include weed detection into project compliance inspection activities. If the spread of noxious weeds is noted, appropriated weed control procedures will be determined in consultation with BLM personnel and will be in compliance with the appropriate BLM handbook sections and applicable laws and regulations.
- Grazing will be conducted in compliance with the Ely District BLM noxious weed schedules. The scheduled procedures can significantly and effectively reduce noxious weed spread or introduction into the project area.
- Control or restrict the timing of livestock movement to minimize the transport of livestock-borne noxious weed seeds, roots, or rhizomes between weed-infested and weed-free areas.
- Any newly established populations of noxious/invasive weeds discovered will be communicated to the Ely District Noxious and Invasive Weeds Coordinator for treatment.

Reviewed by: /s/ *Bonnie Million* 01/09/2009

Bonnie Million Date

Ely District Noxious & Invasive Weeds Coordinator


Cliff Springs & Oak Springs Term Permit Renewal
Documented Noxious & Invasive Weed Infestations
Location within the Ely District boundary
Ely
Lund
Baker
Pioche
Ashdown
Mesquite
BLM
Ely District Office
N
Legend
Cliff Springs
Oak Springs
BLM
NV State Park
Private
BULL THISTLE
DALMATIAN TOADFLAX
MUSK THISTLE
POISON HEMLOCK
PUNCTUREVINE
RUSSIAN KNAPWEED
SALT CEDAR
SCOTCH THISTLE
SPOTTED KNAPWEED
TALL WHITETOP
TREE OF HEAVEN
WHITETOP/HOARY CRESS
0
3.5
7
14
21
28
Miles