

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

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**BLM-DOI-NV-L020-2010-026-EA**

**August 2010**

**2704624**

**Term Permit Renewal**

**Douglas Point (00810), Sawmill Bench (00807) Allotments and  
Silvers Use Area of Cattle Camp/Cave Valley (00903) Allotment  
Term Permit Renewal**

*Location: White Pine County, NV*

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## **1.0 INTRODUCTION:**

This document identifies issues, analyzes alternatives, and discloses the potential environmental impacts associated with the proposed grazing term permit renewal of Authorization #2704624 on the Douglas Point (00810), Sawmill Bench (00807) Allotments and Silvers Use Area of Cattle Camp/Cave Valley (00903) Allotment. The aforementioned allotments are located approximately 50 miles south and southwest of Ely, Nevada and are found almost entirely in White Pine County. A portion of the south west pasture of the Douglas Point Allotment crosses into Nye County.

The legal descriptions of these allotments are as follows:

Cattle Camp/Cave Valley Allotment: T. 12N., R. 64-65E. Sections: several  
T. 11N., R. 63-65E. Sections: several;  
T. 10N, R. 63-64E.; Sections: several

Douglas Point Allotment: T. 11-12N., R. 61E. Sections: several;

Sawmill Bench: T. 12N., R. 62E. Sections: few

## **1.1 INTRODUCTION OF THE PROPOSED ACTION.**

The Bureau of Land Management (BLM) Schell Field Office proposes to issue and fully process a term grazing permit for Authorization Number 2704624 and authorize grazing on the Cattle Camp/Cave Valley Allotment Silver Use Area (SUA), Douglas Point Allotment and Sawmill Bench Allotment. Changes to the existing permit are recommended as necessary to achieve the Standards and Guidelines for Nevada's Northeastern Great Basin Area as established by the Nevada Northeastern Great Basin Resource Advisory Council (RAC), approved 2007. To comply with best management practices the season of use on the Douglas Point Allotment will be changed from 4/1 through 5/31 to 4/15 through 6/15. This is to insure that vegetation receives adequate rest during the critical growing season (pg A.1-8 Ely RMP).

Monitoring data was reviewed and assessments of the rangeland health of the allotments were completed in 2010 during the term permit renewal process through a Standards Determination Document (see complete Standards Determination Document, Appendix I). The following is a summary of the Standard Determination Document (SDD) by allotment for achievement of the standards, and the proposed action and alternatives.

**Table 1. Standards Determination Summary**

<b>ALLOTMENT</b>	<b>STANDARD 1 Upland Sites</b>	<b>STANDARD 2 Riparian and Wetland Sites</b>	<b>STANDARD 3 Habitat</b>
<b>Cattle Camp/ Cave Valley SUA</b>	Achieving the Standard	Not Applicable	Achieving the Standard
<b>Douglas Point</b>	Achieving the Standard	Not Applicable	Not Achieving the Standard, and not making significant progress toward standard. Other issues and livestock are causal factors.
<b>Sawmill Bench</b>	Achieving the Standard	Not Applicable	Achieving the Standard

## **1.2 PURPOSE AND 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 permit for Authorization Number 2704624 with new terms and conditions for grazing use that conform to Guidelines and achieve Standards for Nevada's Northeastern Great Basin Area. These terms and conditions will be 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 permit for Authorization Number 2704624 and authorize grazing in accordance with applicable laws, regulations, and land use plans (LUP) on approximately 26,410 acres of public land.

**1.3.2.** To improve/maintain vegetative health and growth conditions on the allotments and continue to meet or make progress towards achieving the standards and guidelines for rangeland health as approved and published by Nevada's Northeastern Great Basin RAC.

## **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).

- Northeastern Great Basin Resource Advisory Council (RAC) Standards and Guidelines (2007).
- State Protocol Agreement between the Bureau of Land Management, Nevada and the Nevada Historic Preservation Office (1999).

#### **1.4.2 TIERING**

This document is tiered to the Ely Proposed Resource Management Plan/Final Environmental Impact Statement (November 2007).

#### **1.5 RELEVANT ISSUES AND INTERNAL SCOPING/PUBLIC SCOPING.**

The Authorization Number 2704624 term permit renewal proposal was initiated on March 15, 2008, with a presentation to the internal resource specialist team. The proposal was posted on the Ely NEPA web page on April 3, 2008. During the internal scoping session no resource value issues were identified by the interdisciplinary resource specialist team. After the scoping meeting the following issues were identified:

- Air Quality
- Cultural Resources
- Migratory Birds
- Noxious and Invasive, non-native species
- Special status animals; other than those listed or proposed as threatened or endangered. sage grouse, pygmy rabbits, and eagles
- Fish and Wildlife
- Grazing Uses

A letter notifying the permittee and interested public of the term permit renewal was sent on January 14, 2010.

### **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 Authorization Number 2704624 and authorize grazing on the Cattle Camp/Cave Valley SUA, Sawmill Bench, Douglas Point Allotments (Figure 1, Appendix 1). Changes to the permits terms and conditions are recommended to comply with the best management practices put forth in the Ely Resource Management Plan (RMP) and Environmental Impact Statement (EIS). The proposed permit is shown in Table 2. The current permit is shown in Table 4.

The renewal of the term grazing permit would be for a period of up to ten years from 2010 to 2020. Livestock number and kind, and permitted use will continue in accordance with the terms of the current permit and Final Multiple Use Decision (12/12/1990).

In accordance with 43 CFR 4130.3-1 and 4130.3-2, the following terms and conditions shall be included in the new term permit for Authorization # 2704624.

#### **Table 2. Proposed Action 2010-2020 Term Permit for #2704624**

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Allotment Name and Number	Livestock Number/Kind	Grazing Period Begin End	% Public Land*	Type Use	AUMs **
Cattle Camp/Cave Valley SUA (00903)	81 Cattle	5/15 - 11/30	100	Active	533
Douglas Point (00810) North East Pasture	86 Cattle	4/15 – 6/15	100	Active	175
Douglas Point (00810) South West Pasture	94 Cattle	4/15 – 6/15	100	Active	192
Sawmill Bench (00807)	90 Cattle	11/10 – 12/17	100	Active	112
*% Public Land is the percent of public land for billing purposes. **AUMs may differ from Active Use due to a rounding difference with the number of livestock and the period of use.					
<b>Allotment Summary (AUMs)</b>					
Allotment	Active AUMs	Suspended AUMs	Permitted Use AUMs		
Cattle Camp/Cave Valley SUA (00903)	533	0	533		
Douglas Point (00810)	368	744	1,112		
Sawmill Bench (00807)	114	0	114		

**Terms and Conditions**

1. Grazing use on the Douglas Point Allotment shall be in accordance with the final multiple-use decision dated December 12, 1990. To allow livestock grazing in either pasture of the Douglas Point Allotment, water must be provided in each pasture. Cattle may not be turned into a pasture unless the water sources are working properly or water haul sites have been established within each pasture.
2. Utilization levels for winterfat on the Douglas Point Allotment will be set at 30% due to the close proximity of weeds such as Halogeton, cheatgrass and Russian thistle.
3. Grazing use on the Cattle Camp/Cave Valley Allotment Silver Use Area shall be in accordance with the final multiple-use decision dated February 10, 1997.
4. Annual billing for grazing use in the Cattle Camp/Cave Valley Allotment will be after-the-fact, and will be based on an actual use grazing report which shall be submitted within 15 days after the end of the grazing period. If no actual grazing use report is submitted then a bill will be issued for the allotment total active preference.

**2.2 ALTERNATIVE 1: VOLUNTARY NON-USE NORTH EAST PASTURE IN DOUGLAS POINT ALLOTMENT**

In Alternative 1 livestock management on the Cattle Camp/Cave Valley and Sawmill Bench Allotments will remain the same as the current permit. The Douglas Point Allotment would have

175 AUM's from the North East Pasture placed into voluntary non-use. The permittee has already periodically reduced livestock numbers in the North East Pasture of the Douglas Point Allotment over the past 5 grazing seasons. This was done because of the low forage availability caused by drought.

**Table 3. Alternative 1: 2010-2020 Term Permit for #2704624**

Allotment Name and Number	Livestock Number/Kind	Grazing Period Begin End	% Public Land*	Type Use	AUMs **
Cattle Camp/Cave Valley SUA (00903)	81 Cattle	5/15 - 11/30	100	Active	533
Douglas Point (00810) North East Pasture	86 Cattle	4/15 – 6/15	100	Active	175
Douglas Point (00810) South West Pasture	94 Cattle	4/15 – 6/15	100	Active	192
Sawmill Bench (00807)	90 Cattle	11/10 – 12/17	100	Active	112
*% Public Land is the percent of public land for billing purposes.					
**AUMs may differ from Active Use due to a rounding difference with the number of livestock and the period of use.					
<b>Allotment Summary (AUMs)</b>					
Allotment	Active AUMs	Suspended AUMs	Permitted Use AUMs		
Cattle Camp/Cave Valley SUA (00903)	533	0	533		
Douglas Point (00810)	193	744	1,112		
Sawmill Bench (00807)	114	0	114		

**Terms and Conditions**

1. Due to the poor vegetative composition of the North East Pasture of the Douglas Point Allotment, 175 livestock AUM's will be placed into voluntary non-use until this pasture has received a successful treatment and/or is meeting the Rangeland Health Standards.
2. Utilization levels for winterfat on the Douglas Point Allotment will be set at 30% due to the close proximity of weeds such as Halogeton, cheatgrass and Russian thistle.
3. With Authorized Officers approval only, a portion of the AUMs placed into voluntary non-use may be used in the South West Pasture of the Douglas Point Allotment to remove cheatgrass. On years with exceptional cheatgrass growth cattle may be moved into the designated area of the pasture outside of the permitted season-of-use for no

more than 2 weeks time at each location. Livestock will be controlled with an electric fence and temporary water haul sites will be established in accordance with Nevada State Water Law. Details will be established in an AMP to be implemented at the same time as the permit is issued.

4. Grazing use on the Cattle Camp/Cave Valley Allotment Silver Use Area shall be in accordance with the final multiple-use decision dated February 10, 1997. The permittee has fence and cattle guard maintenance responsibilities.
5. Annual billing for grazing use in the Cattle Camp/Cave Valley Allotment will be after-the-fact, and will be based on an actual use grazing report which shall be submitted within 15 days after the end of the grazing period. If no actual grazing use report is submitted then a bill will be issued for the allotment total active preference.

### **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. BMPs would not be implemented, the season of use would not be modified, and AUM's would not be placed into voluntary non-use.

### **2.4 STIPULATIONS COMMON TO ALL ALLOTMENTS**

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 would be allowed when consistent with multiple-use objectives. Such deviations would 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. The payment of your grazing fees is due on or before the date specified in the grazing bill. This date is generally the opening date of your allotment. If payment is not received within 15 days of the due date, you would be charged a late fee assessment of \$25 or 10 percent of the grazing bill, whichever is greater, not to exceed \$250. Payment with Visa, MasterCard or American Express is accepted. Failure to make payment within 30 days of the due date may result in trespass action.
5. 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.

6. Grazing use in White Pine County would be in accordance with the Northeastern Great Basin Area 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 would also be in accordance with 43 CFR Subpart 4180 - Fundamentals of Rangeland Health and Standards and Guidelines for Grazing Administration.
7. If future monitoring data indicates that Standards and Guidelines for Grazing Administration are not being met, the permit would be reissued subject to revised terms and conditions.
8. The permittee is responsible for all maintenance of assigned range improvements including wildlife escape ramps for both permanent and temporary water troughs.
9. 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.
10. Until site specific implementation plans and route designations are complete, motorized travel will be limited to existing roads and trails except when cross-country travel is needed for safety, required for government (federal, state and local) administrative needs, or as authorized on a permit.

## **2.5 BEST MANAGEMENT PRACTICES (BMPS)**

BMPs applicable to the proposed action as described in the RMP (August 2008), Appendix A.

- Place salt and supplements at least 0.5 mile away from winterfat dominated sites. Base placement on site-specific assessment and characteristics such as riparian, topography, cultural, special status species, etc.
- Locate water haul sites at least 0.5 mile away from winterfat dominated sites. Base placement on site-specific assessment and characteristics such as riparian, topography, cultural, special status species, etc.
- Develop grazing systems to control or rest grazing use on winterfat sites after March 1, or when the critical growing season begins. Allow spring grazing use during the critical growing period if a grazing rotation system that provides rest from grazing during the critical growing period at least every other year for all areas is in place. Utilization during the critical growth period should not exceed 35 percent under any circumstances.

Salt and mineral supplements:

- Base placement of salt and mineral supplements on site-specific assessment.
- 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 salt at least 0.5 mile from any water source including troughs.
- Place salt and mineral supplements at least 1 mile from sage grouse leks.

- Place water haul sites at least 0.5 mile away from riparian areas, cultural sites, and special status species locations.
- Limit water hauling to existing roads when possible.

## 2.6 INVASIVE, NON-NATIVE SPECIES AND NOXIOUS WEEDS

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

A Weed Risk Assessment was completed for this grazing permit renewal on July 28, 2010. The measures listed in the Weed Risk Assessment will be followed when grazing occurs on the allotments to minimize the effects on weeds.

## 2.7 CULTURAL RESOURCES

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.

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.

The cultural staff has identify the known eligible cultural resources 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.

## 2.8 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).”

### Current permit

**Table 4. 2000-2010 Term Permit for #2704624.**

Allotment Name and Number	Livestock Number/Kind	Grazing Period Begin End	% Public Land*	Type Use	AUMs**
Cattle Camp/Cave Valley SUA(00903)	81 Cattle	5/15 – 11/30	100	Active	533
Douglas Point (00810)	183 Cattle	4/01 - 5/31	100	Active	367

Sawmill Bench (00807)	90 Cattle	11/10 – 12/17	100	Active	112
<p>*% Public Land is the percent of public land for billing purposes.  **AUMs may differ from Active Use due to a rounding difference with the number of livestock and the period of use.</p>					
<b>Allotment Summary (AUMs)</b>					
<b>Allotment</b>	<b>Active AUMs</b>	<b>Suspended AUMs</b>	<b>Permitted Use AUMs</b>		
Cattle Camp/Cave Valley SUA(00903)	533	0	533		
Douglas Point (00810)	368	744	1,112		
Sawmill Bench (00807)	114	0	114		

**2.9 ALTERNATIVES CONSIDERED BUT ELIMINATED FROM FURTHER ANALYSIS**

**2.9.1 CHANGING THE SEASON OF USE IN BOTH DOUGLAS POINT AND THE SAWMILL BENCH ALLOTMENTS**

The interdisciplinary (ID) team had discussed changing the season of use on both the Douglas Point and Sawmill Bench Allotments. On November 11<sup>th</sup>, instead of grazing the Sawmill Bench Allotment the livestock would graze the Douglas Point Allotment. Then in April when the livestock would usually move into the Douglas Point Allotment they would go into the Sawmill Bench Allotment. The Cattle Camp/Cave Valley Allotment season of use would remain unchanged.

This rotation was eliminated because grazing on the Douglas Point Allotment depends on the water from the Summit Spring Pipeline. Maintaining this pipeline in the winter months would be extremely difficult due to its location and poor road conditions that time of year.

**2.9.2 CHANGE TURN-OUT DATE OF DOUGLAS POINT ALLOTMENT**

It was discussed that postponing the turn-out date on the Douglas Point Allotment would allow for critical growing season rest for vegetation. By compressing the season of use more livestock would be turned onto the allotment to utilize all of the AUMs permitted for this area.

After reviewing the permit and seeing that increasing numbers would not be consistent with the livestock operation as a whole. The other allotments on this permit range from 80 to 90 head of livestock. It is not feasible for this permittee to graze 183 cows on one allotment when the permittee would have to keep about 90 cows on private property the rest of the year.

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

**3.0 DESCRIPTION OF THE AFFECTED ENVIRONMENT AND ASSOCIATED ENVIRONMENTAL CONSEQUENCES.**

### **3.1 ALLOTMENT INFORMATION**

The authorization number 2704624 is permitted to graze cattle on the following three BLM allotments: Cattle Camp/Cave Valley Allotment Silver Use Area (SUA), Sawmill Bench Allotment, and Douglas Point Allotment.

The Cattle Camp/Cave Valley Allotment SUA pasture contains 1 sage grouse lek and 4 more are located within a 1 mile radius of the pasture (Figure 1). There are no wild horse herd management areas or wilderness areas within this pasture. The pasture is approximately 3,900 acres of both native and crested wheatgrass vegetation.

The Sawmill Bench Allotment has no sage grouse leks, no wild horse herd management areas or wilderness areas. This is a crested wheatgrass seeding, with Wyoming sagebrush re-entering the site.

The Douglas Point Allotment also has no sage grouse leks, no wild horse herd management areas or wilderness areas. This allotment has both upland native vegetation and winterfat.



### 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.

**Table 5. Resources/Concerns Considered for Analysis**

<b>Resource/Concern Considered</b>	<b>Issue(s) Analyzed ? (Y/N)</b>	<b>Rationale for Dismissal from Analysis or Issue(s) Requiring Detailed Analysis</b>
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.
Cultural Resources	No	<p>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.</p> <p>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.</p> <p>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. No further analysis needed.</p>
Forest Health	No	No unique forest or woodlands are present within the project location. No further analysis needed.
Migratory Birds	No	The migratory bird species that occur in or near the project area are listed in Appendix II. Changes to the term permit renewal for the Douglas Point Allotment may have a minimal effect. Detailed analysis is not required.
Native American Religious Concerns	No	No concerns were identified through coordination letters sent on January 8, 2010.

<b>Resource/Concern Considered</b>	<b>Issue(s) Analyzed ? (Y/N)</b>	<b>Rationale for Dismissal from Analysis or Issue(s) Requiring Detailed Analysis</b>
FWS Listed or proposed for listing Threatened or Endangered Species or critical habitat.*	No	There are no threatened or endangered species within or in close proximity to the allotments.
Wastes, Hazardous or Solid	No	Wastes (hazardous or solid) will not require a further analysis because it is not associated with the nature of the proposed action.
Water Quality, Drinking/Ground	No	No water in the proposed action area is used for human drinking water. Alternatives would not affect ground or surface water quality.
Wilderness	No	No Wilderness occurs on Silver Use Area of Cattle Camp/Cave Valley Allotment, Douglas Point Allotment or Sawmill Bench Allotment.
Environmental Justice	No	No minority or low-income groups would be disproportionately affected by health or environmental effects.
Floodplains	No	No floodplains occur in the proposed project area.
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).
Wetlands/Riparian Zones	No	There are no Wetlands or Riparian areas in the proposed term permit renewal area.
Noxious and Invasive, Non-native Species	Yes	The noxious species Russian knapweed, Canada thistle, black henbane and hoary cress occur within the project area along roads. Cheatgrass and halogeton are found within the Douglas Point Allotment. Although improper grazing can increase the populations of the noxious and invasive weeds already present in the permitted area, the design features of the Proposed Action, including setting utilization levels of native species, would help to prevent weeds from establishing or spreading. Alternative 1 offers additional terms and conditions to control the spread of cheatgrass and could prevent a cheatgrass burn cycle allowing more desirable species to establish. No further analysis is necessary.

<b>Resource/Concern Considered</b>	<b>Issue(s) Analyzed ? (Y/N)</b>	<b>Rationale for Dismissal from Analysis or Issue(s) Requiring Detailed Analysis</b>
Special Status Animal Species, other than those listed or proposed by the FWS as Threatened or Endangered	No	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).  No pygmy rabbits have been documented within the allotments.
Special Status Plant Species, other than those listed or proposed by the FWS as Threatened or Endangered	No	No Special Status Plant species have been documented within the allotments.
Wild Horses	No	There are no wild horse herd management areas within these allotments.
Fish and Wildlife	Yes	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).  See Section 3.3 Analysis from Table 5.
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).
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.
Grazing Uses	Yes	See Section 3.3 Analysis From Table 5
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.

<b>Resource/Concern Considered</b>	<b>Issue(s) Analyzed ? (Y/N)</b>	<b>Rationale for Dismissal from Analysis or Issue(s) Requiring Detailed Analysis</b>
Recreation Uses	No	Design features identified in the proposed action would result in negligible impacts to recreational activities
Paleontological Resources	No	No paleontological resources are present in the proposed term permit renewal area.
Water Resources	No	Impacts from livestock grazing on Water Resources were analyzed in the Ely Proposed Resource Management Plan/Final Environmental Impact Statement (November 2007) (page 4.3-5).
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	<p>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).</p> <p>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. No further analysis is needed.</p>

\*Consultation required unless a “not present” or “no effect” finding is made

The resources/concerns that are not present in the proposed action allotments or are affected negligibly by the proposed action and do not require a detailed analysis include mineral resources, paleontological resources, recreation uses, land uses, visual resource management, special designation other than designated wilderness, floodplains, environmental justice, Native American Religious Concerns, noxious and invasive, non-native species, FWS listed or proposed for listing threatened or endangered species or critical habitat, wastes (hazardous or solid), water quality (drinking/ground), wilderness, air quality, forest health, and migratory birds.

The resources that are impacted due to livestock grazing in the Ely Proposed Resource Management Plan/Final Environmental Impact Statement (November 2007), 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, and Watershed Management (page 4.19-8), these resources do not require a further detailed analysis.

### **3.3 ANALYSIS FROM TABLE 5**

#### **3.3.1 SENSITIVE SPECIES**

##### **3.3.1.1 Sage-Grouse**

The greater sage-grouse (*Centrocercus urophasianus*) is a high-profile Sensitive Species that currently was determined by the US Fish and Wildlife Service to be warranted for listing but precluded due to higher priority species. It has been identified as an “umbrella” species by the Ely District BLM, and chosen to represent the habitat needs of the sagebrush (*Artemisia* spp.) obligate or sagebrush/woodland dependent guild (USDOI 2007; p. 4.7-10).

There is one active lek within the allotment and four active leks within 2 miles of the Silver Use Area boundary. There is nesting, summer, and winter sage-grouse habitat in the Silver Use Area and winter habitat in the Douglas Point Allotment. There is one lek within two miles of Sawmill Bench (crested wheatgrass seeding) which may provide potential nesting habitat. Sage-grouse often nest in suitable habitat within three miles of a lek site. The Silver Use Area is within the Steptoe/Cave Valley Population Management Unit (PMU) and Douglas Point and Sawmill Bench Allotments are within the Butte/Buck/White Pine PMU.

Based on the sage-grouse guidelines for nesting habitat presented in Connelly et al (2000), the herbaceous grass and forb component combined should comprise at least 15% of the vegetative community by cover and sagebrush should comprise at least 15-25% of vegetative cover. These guidelines were developed for arid sites; however they are only guidelines and may not adequately represent the site potential for sage grouse habitat in this area.

##### **3.3.1.2 Proposed Action**

Under the Proposed Action, the vegetative conditions in the Douglas Point Allotment may have the opportunity to improve with additional rest during the critical growing period and by dividing the AUMs between two pastures. However, it is unknown whether these changes in grazing management will be adequate to improve grass and forb cover for sage grouse. Herbaceous cover is needed to provide concealment for sage grouse nests, as well as providing a diet of forbs and insects for sage grouse and their chicks. Presently, the NE pasture does not meet these requirements. Under the Proposed Action, cheatgrass will continue to spread in the SW pasture and continue to out compete the native herbaceous vegetation. The conversion of native grass and forbs to cheatgrass will increase the fire frequency in this allotment creating a loss of sage grouse habitat.

##### **3.3.1.3 Alternative 1**

Under Alternative 1, the vegetative conditions in the NE pasture of the Douglas Point Allotment will have the opportunity to improve as the pasture is rested from grazing. A sagebrush treatment will open the canopy releasing grasses and forbs that are important for sage grouse nest concealment and their diet. Additionally, grazing cheatgrass will help prevent its spread and allow the native vegetation to return to cheatgrass dominated areas. Alternative 1 will benefit sage grouse and other wildlife by providing suitable habitat for nesting and forage.

#### **3.3.1.4 No Action Alternative**

Under the No Action Alternative, the current vegetative conditions in the NE pasture of the Douglas Point Allotment will continue to decline with inadequate grass and forb cover for sage grouse, as well as forage for other wildlife. Herbaceous cover is needed to provide concealment for sage grouse nests, as well as providing a diet of forbs and insects for sage grouse and their chicks. Presently, the NE pasture does not meet these requirements. Under the No Action Alternative, cheatgrass will continue to spread in the SW pasture and continue to out compete the native herbaceous vegetation. The conversion of native grass and forbs to cheatgrass will increase the fire frequency in this allotment creating an additional loss of sage grouse habitat.

### **3.3.2 FISH AND WILDLIFE**

All the allotments contain yearlong habitat for elk and mule deer. Douglas Point and Sawmill Bench contain yearlong pronghorn habitat. The SW pasture of Douglas Point contains crucial winter mule deer habitat and the Silver Use Area contains a small portion of crucial summer elk habitat. These allotments also provide habitat for coyote, fox, jack rabbits, reptiles, and rodents.

#### **3.3.2.1 Proposed Action**

Under the Proposed Action, the vegetative conditions in the Douglas Point Allotment may have the opportunity to improve with additional rest during the critical growing period and by dividing the AUMs between two pastures. However, it is unknown whether these changes in grazing management will be adequate to improve the herbaceous understory for wildlife. Grazing may have effects on wildlife habitat through alteration of vegetation communities. Wildlife and livestock compete for forage, cover, and water resources.

#### **3.3.2.2 Alternative 1**

Under Alternative 1, the vegetative conditions in the NE pasture of the Douglas Point Allotment will have the opportunity to improve as the pasture is rested from grazing. A sagebrush treatment will open the canopy releasing grasses and forbs that are important for wildlife forage. Additionally, grazing cheatgrass will help prevent its spread and allow the native vegetation to return to cheatgrass dominated areas. Alternative 1 will benefit wildlife by providing additional forage and therefore less competition between livestock and wildlife.

#### **3.3.2.3 No Action Alternative**

Under the No Action Alternative, the current vegetative conditions in the Douglas Point Allotment will continue to decline with inadequate grasses and forbs for wildlife forage. Wildlife and livestock will continue to compete for remaining forage. Under the No Action Alternative, cheatgrass will continue to spread in the SW pasture and continue to out compete the native herbaceous vegetation. The conversion of native grass and forbs to cheatgrass will increase the fire frequency in this allotment creating an additional loss of wildlife habitat.

### **3.3.3 GRAZING USES**

#### **3.3.3.1 Proposed Action**

The proposed action is the same as the current permit but separates the active use in the Douglas Point Allotment by pastures. This action was already done in the 1990 multiple-use decision for

this allotment. A reduced utilization level for the winterfat is also added to the proposed action, because of the high numbers of invasive weeds near the winterfat.

Currently, on the Douglas Point Allotment, the permittee has chosen to not use only a portion of the AUMs, but at any time can chose to use the full amount. This permit would allow the permittee to use all of the active AUMs and graze full numbers on the North East Pasture of the Douglas Point Allotment. If this were allowed to happen the vegetation in the North East Pasture of the Douglas Point Allotment would deteriorate.

### **3.3.3.2 Alternative 1**

The Alternative 1 action temporarily removes grazing from the North East Pasture until the pasture is meeting rangeland health standards and/or has received a successful vegetation treatment. Once the pasture has met the rangeland health standards and/or has received a successful vegetation treatment grazing will be allowed to continue on the pasture.

The action also provides for livestock to be used for treating cheatgrass. By removing the cheatgrass when the seed heads are ripe, two things are accomplished; fire fuels are reduced and the seeds are removed so fewer plants should re-vegetate the area in the next year.

### **3.3.3.3 No Action Alternative**

The no action alternative would to be reissue the current permit as is, without the separation between the two pastures in the Douglas Point Allotment. This would allow the permittee to use the AUMs for this permit on any part of the allotment, which could cause degradation of the northeast pasture of the Douglas Point Allotment.

## **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 the special status species sage grouse, fish and wildlife, and grazing use is defined as the Douglas Point, Sawmill Bench, and Silver Use Area of the Cattle Camp/Cave Valley Allotment boundaries.

#### **4.1 Past Activities**

Hunting, trapping, wildlife viewing, and other activities occur on all allotments year round. OHV use may have occurred on the roads and two-tracks on the allotments.

Livestock grazing, including sheep trailing, 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. Range improvements have occurred on all allotments to improve grazing management and include fencing, and livestock water developments. A few crested wheatgrass vegetation treatment projects have taken place in the Silver Use Area and Sawmill Bench portions of the CESA.

#### **4.2 Present Activities**

All allotments are currently being grazed by livestock with sheep also trailing through. 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.

The Southwest Intertie Project (SWIP) power line corridor crosses the Douglas Point Allotment. This corridor is 0.5 miles wide with one power line currently authorized.

The Cave Valley Watershed Analysis is on-going and considers large portions of the Silver Use Area on the Cattle Camp/Cave Valley Allotment.

#### **4.3 Reasonably Foreseeable Future Actions (RFFA)**

Wildfires could be likely within the CESA. 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. Oil and gas leasing may start up throughout the area. Sheep trailing will continue in the area. Vegetative treatments may be authorized in the CESA to improve overall range health. Authorizing power lines within the SWIP corridor will continue through subsequent NEPA.

#### **4.4 Cumulative Effects Summary**

##### **Sage-Grouse**

##### **Proposed Action**

Some of the interrelated projects would result in habitat loss either through disturbance or alteration. However, most of these projects, with the stipulations to maintain current conditions of habitat or rehabilitate lost habitat, should reduce the effects of interrelated projects. Other projects are designed to improve habitat therefore have beneficial effects. The proposed action is designed to maintain habitat which will reduce effects to sage-grouse habitat. The proposed action in combination with other actions is not anticipated to have any cumulative effects on sage-grouse habitat.

##### **Alternative 1**

Some of the interrelated projects would result in habitat loss either through disturbance or alteration. However, most of these projects, with the stipulations to maintain current conditions of habitat or rehabilitate lost habitat, should reduce the effects of interrelated projects. Other

projects are designed to improve habitat therefore have beneficial effects. Alternative 1 is designed to maintain habitat which will reduce effects to sage-grouse habitat. Alternative 1 in combination with other actions is not anticipated to have any cumulative effects on sage-grouse habitat.

### **No Action Alternative**

Uses of public lands are not expected to change in intensity, duration, or frequency within the allotments. As such, effects to sage-grouse habitat would remain similar to those currently existing in the Douglas Point, Sawmill Bench, and Silver Use Area of the Cattle Camp/Cave Valley Allotments.

### **Grazing Use**

#### **Proposed Action**

The proposed action would disperse livestock more evenly though out the CESA. Changes in the grazing use will be made with expected beneficial effects to range health.

#### **Alternative 1**

Alternative 1 action would disperse livestock more evenly though out the CESA and temporarily remove livestock for a designated number of years. Changes in the grazing use will be made with expected beneficial effects to range health.

### **No Action Alternative**

Uses of public land grazing use resources are not expected to change in intensity, duration, or frequency within the allotments. As such, effects to range health would remain similar in character to those currently acting upon the resources on the Douglas Point, Sawmill Bench, and Silver Use Area of the Cattle Camp/Cave Valley Allotments.

### **Fish and Wildlife**

#### **Proposed Action**

Some of the interrelated projects would result in habitat loss either through disturbance or alteration. However, most of these projects, with the stipulations to maintain current conditions of habitat or rehabilitate lost habitat, should reduce the effects of interrelated projects. Other projects are designed to improve habitat therefore have beneficial effects. The proposed action is designed to maintain habitat which will reduce effects to fish and wildlife habitat. The proposed action in combination with other actions is not anticipated to have any cumulative effects on fish and wildlife habitat.

#### **Alternative 1**

Some of the interrelated projects would result in habitat loss either through disturbance or alteration. However, most of these projects, with the stipulations to maintain current conditions of habitat or rehabilitate lost habitat, should reduce the effects of interrelated projects. Other projects are designed to improve habitat therefore have beneficial effects. Alternative 1 is designed to maintain habitat which will reduce effects to fish and wildlife habitat. Alternative 1 in combination with other actions is not anticipated to have any cumulative effects on fish and wildlife habitat.

## **No Action Alternative**

Uses of public lands are not expected to change in intensity, duration, or frequency within the allotments. As such, effects to fish and wildlife habitat would remain similar to those currently existing in the Douglas Point, Sawmill Bench, and Silver Use Area of the Cattle Camp/Cave Valley Allotments.

## **5.0 PROPOSED MITIGATION AND MONITORING**

### **5.0.1 Proposed Mitigation**

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

### **5.0.2 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 SCHELL FIELD OFFICE RESOURCE SPECIALISTS**

Chelsy Simerson	Rangeland Resources, Vegetation
Zach Peterson	Planning and Environmental Coordinator
Lori Leshner	Archaeologist
Mindy Seal	Noxious and Invasive, Non-native Species
Nancy Williams	Wildlife, Special Status Species, Migratory Birds
Melanie Peterson	Hazardous and Solid Waste and Safety
Elvis Wall	American Native Cultural Concerns
Chris Mayer	Supervisory Rangeland Management Specialist
Mark D'Aversa	Hydrologist

### **6.2 PERSONS, GROUPS OR AGENCIES CONSULTED**

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

#### **•Permittees**

- Frank Reid

#### **•Tribal Consultation**

- Tribal Coordination Letters were sent January 8, 2010. No concerns were identified through coordination.

### **6.3 PUBLIC NOTICE OF AVAILABILITY**

On April 8, 2008 a summary of the term grazing permit was posted on the BLM Ely District website at [http://www.blm.gov/nv/st/en/fo/ely\\_field\\_office.html](http://www.blm.gov/nv/st/en/fo/ely_field_office.html).

On December 22, 2009 scoping letters were sent to interested persons and organizations on the Ely District Rangeland Management Interested Public List.

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**Appendix I**  
**STANDARDS AND DETERMINATION DOCUMENT**  
2704624 Term Permit Renewal  
Douglas Point (00810), Sawmill Bench (00807) Allotments and  
Silvers Use Area of Cattle Camp/Cave Valley (00903) Allotment

**Standards and Guidelines Assessment**

Standards and Guidelines for Grazing Administration were developed by the Northeastern Great Basin Resource Advisory Council 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 livestock grazing management achievement of the Standards and conformance with the Guidelines for the Cattle Camp/Cave Valley Silver Use Area (SUA), Douglas Point and Sawmill Bench Allotments in the Ely BLM District. This document does not evaluate or assess achievement of the wild horse and burro or Off Highway Vehicle Standards or conformance to the respective Guidelines.

The standards were assessed for the Cattle Camp/Cave Valley SUA, Douglas Point & Sawmill Bench Allotments by a BLM interdisciplinary team consisting of rangeland management specialists, wildlife biologist, weeds specialist, and watershed specialist. Documents and publications used in the assessment process include the 1) Soil Survey of Western White Pine County, Nevada, 2) Ecological Site Descriptions Major Land Resource Area 28B, Central Nevada Basin and Range Nevada, 3) Interpreting Indicators of Rangeland Health (USDI-BLM et al. 2000), 4) Sampling Vegetation Attributes (USDI-BLM et al. 1996) and 5) the National Range and Pasture Handbook (USDA-NRCS 1997). A complete list of references is included at the end of this document. All are available for public review at the Schell BLM Field Office. The interdisciplinary team used rangeland monitoring data, professional observations, and photographs to assess achievement of the Standards and conformance with the Guidelines.

The Silver Use Area (SUA) pasture is the portion of the Cattle Camp/Cave Valley Allotment this permittee has authorization to graze. It encompasses approximately 3,827 acres of public land. The pasture occurs entirely within White Pine County, and is situated approximately 30 miles south of Ely, Nevada. This pasture mostly occurs in the Cave Valley watershed (181) but the northern portion occurs in the South Steptoe watershed (161). There is no Wild Horse Herd Management Area (HMA) within this pasture or on the allotment.

The current grazing term permit is issued for the period 03/1/2001 to 02/28/2011 to the authorization number 2704624. The allotments associated with this permit are cattle allotments. The Cattle Camp/Cave Valley Allotment Silver Use Area has a total grazing preference of 533 Animal Unit Months (AUMs). All of these AUMs are active. The current term permit authorizes approximately 81 head of cattle for a grazing period starting 5/15 and ending 11/30.

The Douglas Point Allotment has a total grazing preference of 1,112 AUMs. Of those AUMs 744 are suspended and 368 are active. The current permit authorizes approximately 183 head of cattle for a grazing period starting 4/1 and ending 5/31. This allotment also has a sheep trail that runs north and south through the middle between the two pastures. Sheep are on this trail in both the spring and fall. The sheep are moved at a speed of at least 5 miles a day. The trail is about 3 miles long in the south west pasture and is adjacent to the north east pasture for 4 miles.

The Sawmill Bench Allotment has a total grazing preference of 114 AUMs. All of these AUMs are active. The current term permit authorizes approximately 90 head of cattle for the grazing period starting 11/10 and ending 12/17.

A summary of monitoring data is located in Appendix I(A).

## **PART 1. STANDARD CONFORMANCE REVIEW**

### **Cattle Camp/Cave Valley Allotment SUA**

#### **Standard 1. Upland Sites**

*Upland soils exhibit infiltration and permeability rates that are appropriate to soil type, climate and land form.*

As indicated by:

- Indicators are canopy and ground cover, including litter, live vegetation and rock, appropriate to potential of the site.

Determination:

#### **X Achieving the Standard**

- Not Achieving the Standard, but making significant progress towards achieving
- 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
- Failure to meet a standard is related to other issues or conditions

Guidelines Conformance:

#### **X In conformance with the Guidelines**

- Not in conformance with the Guidelines

*Conclusion: Standard Achieved*

The key area BW-01 has an existing total ground cover of 73%; this includes litter, rocks and larger woody debris. The Ecological Site Description (ESD) for the site indicates that the site should range from 20-30% cover. The key area CC-07 has an existing total ground cover of 47%. The ESD indicates that the site should range from 20-30% cover. The key area CCCV 21 has an existing total ground cover of 49%. The ESD for this site indicates that the cover should range from 20-30%. There is no evidence of excessive erosion on this pasture.

## **Standard 2. Riparian and Wetland Sites**

*Riparian and wetland areas exhibit a properly functioning condition and achieve state water quality criteria.*

As indicated by:

- 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 accelerating 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); and other cover (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.
  - Chemical, physical and biological water constituents are not exceeding the state water quality standards.

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

Determination:

### **X Not Applicable**

- Achieving the Standard
- Not Achieving the Standard, but making significant progress towards
- 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
- Failure to meet a standard is related to other issues or conditions

Guidelines Conformance:

- In conformance with the Guidelines
- Not in conformance with the Guidelines

*Conclusion: Not Applicable*

There are no riparian/wetland sites in this pasture.

## **Standard 3. Habitat:**

*Habitats exhibit a healthy, productive, and diverse population of native and/or desirable plant species, appropriate to the site characteristics, to provide suitable feed, water, cover and living space for animal species and maintain ecological processes. Habitat conditions meet the life cycle requirements of threatened and endangered species.*

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:

**X Achieving the Standard**

- Not Achieving the Standard, but making significant progress towards
- Not Achieving the Standard, 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
- Failure to meet a standard is related to other issues or conditions

Guidelines Conformance:

**X In conformance with the Guidelines**

- Not in conformance with the Guidelines

*Conclusion: Achieving Standard*

The ESD for site BW-01 indicates that this site should have 65% grasses, 10% forbs, and 25% shrubs by composition. The actual vegetative composition by cover for this site is 68% grasses, 6% forbs, and 27% shrubs. Cheatgrass was present at this site at 17% of vegetative cover (see table 4.2 in Appendix I(A)). The site is made up of about 83% native vegetation.

The ESD for site CC-07 indicates that this site should have 65% grasses, 10% forbs, and 25% shrubs by composition. The actual vegetative composition for this site is 23% grasses, 51% forbs, and 26% shrubs. This site has no invasive weed species (see table 4.3 in Appendix I(A)).

The ESD for site CCCV 21 indicates that this site should have 65% grasses, 10% forbs, and 25% shrubs by composition. The actual vegetative composition for this site is 75% grasses, 3% forbs, and 22% shrubs. This site is mostly crested wheatgrass (see table 4.4 in Appendix I(A)).

Sage Grouse

The greater sage-grouse (*Centrocercus urophasianus*) is a high-profile Sensitive Species that the US Fish and Wildlife Service has recently identified its status as warranted but precluded and therefore, it is not currently protected under the Endangered Species Act (USDI 2008). It has been identified as an “umbrella species by the Ely District BLM, and chosen to represent the habitat needs of the sagebrush (*Artemisia* spp.) obligate or sagebrush/woodland dependent guild (USDI-BLM 2007; p. 4.7-10). The White Pine County sage-grouse conservation plan (hereafter termed the Plan; 2004) identified approximately 58% (301,930 ac) of potential (523,806) sage-grouse habitat within the Steptoe/Cave Valley Population Management Unit (PMU) as not meeting the sage-grouse habitat guideline standards produced by Connelly et al. (2000). In the

sagebrush habitat rating system used in the Plan, 'R0' is defined as "areas of intact sagebrush dominated habitats with good understory components" and 'R2' as "areas with inadequate grass/forb understory composition, adequate sagebrush cover". The Plan estimated approximately 221,876 acres of sagebrush habitat in the R0 category and 189,423 acres in the R2 category throughout the Steptoe/Cave Valley Population. Based on the cover data collected for the Silver Use Area, the key areas measured within the allotment fall within the R0 category.

Key areas are sited in areas representative of livestock grazing on the major vegetation types throughout an allotment. The three key areas (BW-01, CC-07, and CCCV21) in the Cattle Camp/Cave Valley Silver Use Area are within the big sagebrush/Thurber's needlegrass/bluebunch wheatgrass ecological site (028BY007NV) and are located within current or potential sage-grouse habitat. Under the sage-grouse guidelines, the herbaceous grass and forb component combined should comprise at least 15% of the vegetative community by cover, and sagebrush should comprise at least 15-25% of vegetative cover (Connelly et al. 2000). All three key areas are exceeding the herbaceous understory requirements established within the sage-grouse guidelines. BW-01 consists of 35% grass/forb cover, CC-07 25%, and CCCV21 29%. Although sagebrush cover at the key areas is lower than the recommended sage grouse guidelines (BW-01 13%, CC-07 8%, and CCCV21 8%), it is deemed acceptable for sage grouse habitat due to the high herbaceous cover.

There are two active leks within or near the Silver Use Area according to the NDOW data used by BLM. The Silver Use Area contains nesting, summer brood rearing and winter habitat. Sage grouse often nest in suitable habitat within three miles of a lek site.

Site specific evaluation of sage-grouse habitat guidelines should be tempered with consideration of site potential as described in the rangeland ecological site descriptions. The site potential, as described in the ESD (20-30% basal and crown vegetative cover, composed of 65% grasses, 10% forbs, and 25% shrubs) is adequate to meet the sage-grouse habitat standards established by Connelly et al. (2000). The site potentials at the key areas are adequate to meet the sage-grouse habitat standards. Because this allotment is meeting the desired vegetative composition for Standard 3 and the guidelines for sage-grouse habitat, they meet the needs of the key "umbrella" species for sagebrush habitats identified in the Ely District Resource Management Plan (2008).

### **Douglas Point Allotment**

#### **Standard 1. Upland Sites**

*Upland soils exhibit infiltration and permeability rates that are appropriate to soil type, climate and land form.*

As indicated by:

- Indicators are canopy and ground cover, including litter, live vegetation and rock, appropriate to potential of the site.

Determination:

#### **X Achieving the Standard**

- Not Achieving the Standard, but making significant progress towards achieving

- 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
- Failure to meet a standard is related to other issues or conditions

#### Guidelines Conformance:

##### **X In conformance with the Guidelines**

- Not in conformance with the Guidelines

#### *Conclusion: Achieving Standard*

The key area DP-01 has an existing total ground cover of 62%. The Ecological Site Description (ESD) for the site indicates that the site should range from 10 to 20% cover. The key area DP-03 has an existing total ground cover of 78%. The ESD indicates that the site should range from 15 to 20% cover. The key area DP-04 has an existing total ground cover of 64%. The ESD for this site indicates that the cover should range from 10 to 20%. This allotment has no signs of excessive soil erosion.

#### **Standard 2. Riparian and Wetland Sites**

*Riparian and wetland areas exhibit a properly functioning condition and achieve state water quality criteria.*

As indicated by:

- 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 accelerating 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); and other cover (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.
  - Chemical, physical and biological water constituents are not exceeding the state water quality standards.

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

#### Determination:

##### **X Not Applicable**

- Achieving the Standard
- Not Achieving the Standard, but making significant progress towards
- 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
- Failure to meet a standard is related to other issues or conditions

#### Guidelines Conformance:

- In conformance with the Guidelines
- Not in conformance with the Guidelines

#### *Conclusion: Not Applicable*

There are no riparian/wetland sites on this pasture.

#### **Standard 3. Habitat:**

*Habitats exhibit a healthy, productive, and diverse population of native and/or desirable plant species, appropriate to the site characteristics, to provide suitable feed, water, cover and living space for animal species and maintain ecological processes. Habitat conditions meet the life cycle requirements of threatened and endangered species.*

#### 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
- Not Achieving the Standard, not making significant progress toward standard**

#### Causal Factors

#### **X Livestock are a contributing factor to not achieving the standard.**

- Livestock are not a contributing factor to not achieving the standard
- Failure to meet a standard is related to other issues or conditions

#### Guidelines Conformance:

- In conformance with the Guidelines**
- Not in conformance with the Guidelines

#### *Conclusion: Not Achieving the Standard, not making progress*

Vegetation throughout the allotment is consistent with the Rangeland ESD. The ESD for site DP-01 indicates that this site should have 25% grasses, 5% forbs, and 70% shrubs by composition. The actual vegetative composition for this site is 0% grasses, 5% forbs, and 95%

shrubs. Cheatgrass is not present at this site. The dominant vegetation at this site is winterfat and fourwing saltbrush (see table 4.6 in Appendix I(A)).

The ESD for site DP-03 indicates that this site should have 50% grasses, 5% forbs, and 45% shrubs by composition. The actual vegetative composition for this site is 8% grasses, 0% forbs, and 92% shrubs. Cheatgrass is present as 1% of this site. The dominant vegetation at this site is black sagebrush and fourwing saltbrush (see table 4.7 in Appendix I(A)).

The ESD for site DP-04 indicates that this site should have 50% grasses, 5% forbs, and 45% shrubs by composition. The actual vegetative composition for this site is 0% grasses, 0% forbs, and 100% shrubs. Cheatgrass is not present at this site. This site is 100% Wyoming big sagebrush (see table 4.8 in Appendix I(A)).

Livestock are a causal factor in not meeting this standard. I observed that about 50% of the north east pasture has reached a monoculture of sagebrush. This area is not likely to regain the appropriate grass and forb understory without a vegetative treatment and/or seeding. This pasture also has halogeton encroachment from the sheep trail into the native vegetation areas. It is unclear what caused this pasture to lose most of its herbaceous plant species. The sheep trail is largely responsible for the halogeton encroachment into the area. This pasture is the reason the allotment is not meeting the standard.

The south west pasture is a native pasture with enough vegetative diversity and seed production to sustain grazing. The areas along the sheep trail, however show low plant vigor, especially in areas where sheep were held overnight. This damage mostly occurred prior to permits stating that sheep will no longer be allowed to “bed down” on or near winter fat vegetation sites.

This area has a Final Multiple Use Decision (FMUD) signed on December 12 1990. The permit was changed at that time to accommodate the condition of the range.

Previous Permit before FMUD made changes.

Allotment/ Pastures	Number	Kind	Period of Use	% Public Land	Active AUMs	Suspended AUMs
Douglas Point	184	Cattle	04/10 – 05/31	100	368	744

Permit after FMUD changes.

Allotment/ Pastures	Number	Kind	Period of Use	% Public Land	Active AUMs	Suspended AUMs
Douglas Point/NE	89	Cattle	04/10 – 05/31	100	177	360
Douglas Point/SW	95	Cattle	04/10 – 05/31	100	191	384

Currently the permittee has been running lower numbers (between 80 and 90 cattle) and just keeping the cattle in the South West pasture. While the North East pasture is mostly used for trailing and/or staying there for only a few days.

### Sage-grouse

The greater sage-grouse (*Centrocercus urophasianus*) is a high-profile Sensitive Species that the US Fish and Wildlife Service has recently identified its status as warranted but precluded and therefore, it is not currently protected under the Endangered Species Act (USDI 2008). It has been identified as an “umbrella species by the Ely District BLM, and chosen to represent the habitat needs of the sagebrush (*Artemisia* spp.) obligate or sagebrush/woodland dependent guild (USDI-BLM 2007; p. 4.7-10). The White Pine County sage-grouse conservation plan (hereafter termed the Plan; 2004) identified approximately 51% (950,773 ac) of potential (1,870,317 ac) sage-grouse habitat within the Butte/Buck/White Pine Population Management Unit (PMU) as not meeting the sage-grouse habitat guideline standards produced by Connelly et al. (2000). In the sagebrush habitat rating system used in the Plan, ‘R0’ is defined as “areas of intact sagebrush dominated habitats with good understory components” and ‘R2’ as “areas with inadequate grass/forb understory composition, adequate sagebrush cover.” The Plan estimated approximately 919,544 acres of sagebrush habitat in the R0 category and 708,146 acres in the R2 category throughout the Butte/Buck/White Pine PMU. Based on the cover data collected for Douglas Point, the key areas measured within the allotment fall within a ‘R2a’ category defined as R2 areas with “decadent sagebrush; cover exceeds the recommended levels.”

Key areas are sited in areas representative of livestock grazing on the major vegetation types throughout an allotment. Two of the three key areas are located within current sage-grouse winter habitat. These areas consist of Wyoming sagebrush/Indian ricegrass/needleandthread grass (DP-04) and black sagebrush/Indian ricegrass/needleandthread grass (DP-03). Under the sage-grouse guidelines, the sagebrush canopy should comprise at least 10-30% of vegetative cover for winter habitat (Connelly et al. 2000). Key areas DP-03 and DP-04 are meeting the shrub cover recommended in the sage-grouse guidelines with 39% and 45% shrub cover, respectively. Key area DP-01 is located within winterfat site and was not analyzed for potential sage-grouse habitat; however these areas are frequently used for lekking.

No sage-grouse leks are known to occur within or near the Douglas Point allotment. The NE pasture and the southeast portion of the SW pasture of Douglas Point contains winter sage-grouse habitat.

Site specific evaluation of sage-grouse habitat guidelines should be tempered with consideration of site potential as described in the rangeland ecological site descriptions. The site potentials, as described in the ESDs, meet the sage-grouse habitat standards established by Connelly et al. (2000) for winter habitat. The site potentials at DP-03 and DP-04 are adequately meeting the sage-grouse winter habitat standards. Because this allotment is meeting the desired vegetative composition for Standard 3 and the guidelines for sage-grouse habitat, the allotment meets the needs of the key “umbrella” species for sagebrush habitats identified in the Ely District Resource Management Plan (2008).

## **Sawmill Bench Allotment**

### **Standard 1. Upland Sites**

*Upland soils exhibit infiltration and permeability rates that are appropriate to soil type, climate and land form.*

As indicated by:

- Indicators are canopy and ground cover, including litter, live vegetation and rock, appropriate to potential of the site.

Determination:

#### **X Achieving the Standard**

- Not Achieving the Standard, but making significant progress towards achieving
- 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
- Failure to meet a standard is related to other issues or conditions

Guidelines Conformance:

#### **X In conformance with the Guidelines**

- Not in conformance with the Guidelines

*Conclusion: Achieving Standard*

The key area SB-01 has an existing cover of 66%. The Ecological Site Description (ESD) for the site indicates that the site should range from 10 to 20% cover. This allotment is located on a bench with a gradual slope of 2-15%. This allotment has no signs of excessive soil erosion.

### **Standard 2. Riparian and Wetland Sites**

*Riparian and wetland areas exhibit a properly functioning condition and achieve state water quality criteria.*

As indicated by:

- 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 accelerating 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); and other cover (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.

- Chemical, physical and biological water constituents are not exceeding the state water quality standards.

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

Determination:

**X Not Applicable**

- Achieving the Standard
- Not Achieving the Standard, but making significant progress towards
- 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
- Failure to meet a standard is related to other issues or conditions

Guidelines Conformance:

- In conformance with the Guidelines
- Not in conformance with the Guidelines

*Conclusion: Not Applicable*

There are no riparian/wetland sites on this pasture.

**Standard 3. Habitat:**

*Habitats exhibit a healthy, productive, and diverse population of native and/or desirable plant species, appropriate to the site characteristics, to provide suitable feed, water, cover and living space for animal species and maintain ecological processes. Habitat conditions meet the life cycle requirements of threatened and endangered species.*

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:

**X Achieving the Standard**

- Not Achieving the Standard, but making significant progress towards
- Not Achieving the Standard, 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
- Failure to meet a standard is related to other issues or conditions

Guidelines Conformance:

**X In conformance with the Guidelines**

Not in conformance with the Guidelines

*Conclusion: Achieving Standard*

This allotment is a crested wheatgrass seeding. It no longer has the native vegetation to compare with the ESD. Sandberg bluegrass is returning to the allotment (Table 4.10). This allotment is healthy and shows good seed production

Sage-grouse

The greater sage-grouse (*Centrocercus urophasianus*) is a high-profile Sensitive Species that the US Fish and Wildlife Service has recently identified its status as warranted but precluded and therefore, it is not currently protected under the Endangered Species Act (USDI 2008). It has been identified as an “umbrella species by the Ely District BLM, and chosen to represent the habitat needs of the sagebrush (*Artemisia* spp.) obligate or sagebrush/woodland dependent guild (USDI-BLM 2007; p. 4.7-10). The White Pine County sage-grouse conservation plan (hereafter termed the Plan; 2004) identified approximately 49% (950,773 ac) of potential (1,870,317 ac) sage-grouse habitat within the Butte/Buck/White Pine Population Management Unit (PMU) as not meeting the sage-grouse habitat guideline standards produced by Connelly et al. (2000). In the sagebrush habitat rating system used in the Plan, ‘R4’ is defined as “areas where sagebrush communities have been type converted through natural or manmade disturbance to annual or perennial grasslands/forbs.” The Sawmill Bench allotment is within the R4 category because it has been converted to a crested wheatgrass seeding.

Due to the conversion to perennial grassland, this allotment does not contain ideal sage-grouse habitat. There are no sage-grouse leks within the allotment, with the nearest lek approximately 2 miles away. As sagebrush slowly returns to the allotment, there is the potential for nesting habitat. Sage-grouse often nest in suitable habitat within three miles of a lek site.

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

**Cattle Camp/Cave Valley Allotment (Silver Use Area)**

Standard #1: Upland Sites	Achieving Standard
Standard #2: Riparian and Wetlands	Not Applicable
Standard #3: Habitat	Achieving Standard

**Douglas Point Allotment**

Standard #1: Upland Sites	Achieving Standard
Standard #2: Riparian and Wetlands	Not Applicable
Standard #3: Habitat	Not Achieving Standard but not making progress, Livestock are a causal factor and others.

Livestock are just one of many reasons this allotment is not meeting the standard. Approximately 50% of the north east pasture is dominated with sagebrush with no grass or forb vegetation. It is unclear how the herbaceous species were lost but it is unlikely that they will return without a treatment. The livestock that are causing the allotment to not meet the standards are sheep that trail through the area in both spring and fall. When the sheep are trailed, they are required to move no less than 5 miles a day. The areas that they stop for the night do receive higher utilization than along the rest for the trail. It is this sheep bedding area within the allotment that is not meeting the standard. The recovery of this area has been slowed due to the drought conditions of the past 10 years.

Sawmill Bench Allotment

Standard #1: Upland Sites	Achieving Standard
Standard #2: Riparian and Wetlands	Not Applicable
Standard #3: Habitat	Achieving Standard

**PART 3. GUIDELINE CONFORMANCE REVIEW**

Grazing is in conformance with all applicable Guidelines as provided in the Northeastern Great Basin RAC Standards.

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

There will be a change to the current terms and conditions of the term grazing permit. A change in the season of use would also allow for more early spring growth without pressure from livestock. By turning the cattle onto the allotment on April 15<sup>th</sup> instead of April 1<sup>st</sup> we allow the vegetation spring rest.

Continue to adhere to the grazing plan for Douglas Point Allotment in the Final Multiple Use Decision (FMUD) signed December 12, 1990. This decision separated out the AUMs and limits the number of livestock to utilize each pasture of this allotment. The decision also allows flexibility for winter grazing with the season of use being 10/15-3/15. If use occurs during the winter season of use then spring grazing will be reduce proportionately.

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**APPENDIX I(A)  
DATA SUMMARY**

**1. Key Areas and Ecological Sites**

A key area is a relatively small portion of a pasture or allotment selected because of its location, use, or grazing value as a monitoring point for grazing use. It is assumed that key areas, if properly selected, will reflect the current grazing management over the pasture or allotment as a whole (NRCS 1997). Key areas represent range conditions, trends, seasonal degrees of use, and resource production and values. Tables 1-1, 1-2, and 1-3 depict key areas and their location within the Cattle Camp/Cave Valley Silver Use Area (SUA), Sawmill Bench and Douglas Point allotments as well as the ecological site associated with the key area.

An ecological site is a distinctive kind of land with specific physical characteristics that differs from other kinds of land in its ability to produce a distinctive kind and amount of vegetation (NRCS 1997). Ecological Site Descriptions (ESD) are used for inventory, evaluation, and management of native vegetation communities. The ecological site of a key area is determined based on several factors including soils, topography, and native plant community.

**Table 1.1 Cattle Camp/Cave Valley Allotment Silver Use Area (SUA) Key Areas**

<b>Key Area</b>	<b>Location (UTM)</b>	<b>Ecological Site</b>	<b>Dominant Species</b>	<b>Soil Mapping Unit</b>
BW-01	11S 0686108 4294167	Loamy 10-12" (028BY007NV)	Thurber's needlegrass, Bluebunch wheatgrass, tapertip hawksbeard, Wyoming and mountain big sagebrush	1580 Wredah- Selti-Tulase association
CC-07	11S 0687889 4300816	Loamy 10-12" (028BY007NV)	Thurber's needlegrass, Bluebunch wheatgrass, tapertip hawksbeard, Wyoming and mountain big sagebrush	1580 Wredah- Selti-Tulase association
CCCV 21	11S 0688659 4297022	Loamy 10-12" (028BY007NV)	Thurber's needlegrass, Bluebunch wheatgrass, tapertip hawksbeard, Wyoming and mountain big sagebrush	1580 Wredah- Selti-Tulase association

**Table 1.2. Douglas Point Key Areas**

Key Area	Location (UTM)	Ecological Site	Dominant Species	Soil Mapping Unit
DP-01	11S 0662819 4299065	Silty 5-8" (029XY020NV)	Winterfat, Indian ricegrass, bottlebrush squirreltail and bud sagebrush	642 Kunzler-Linoyer association
DP-02	11S 0659366 4293274	Shallow Calcareous Loam 8-10" (028BY011NV)	Black sagebrush, Indian ricegrass, and needleandthread grass	282 Palinor very gravelly loam, 2% to 15% slope
DP-03	11S 0657820 4293956	Shallow Calcareous Loam 8-10" (028BY011NV)	Black sagebrush, Indian ricegrass, and needleandthread grass	282 Palinor very gravelly loam, 2% to 15% slope
DP-04	11S 0665786 4304546	Loamy 8-10" (028BY010NV)	Wyoming big sagebrush, Indian ricegrass, and needleandthread grass	192 Cowgil-yody association

**Table 1.3. Sawmill Bench Key Areas**

Key Area	Location (UTM)	Ecological Site	Dominant Species	Soil Mapping Unit
SB-01	11S 0657820 4293956	*	*	1493 Pyrat-Parisa-Tulase association

\*This allotment has been converted into a Crested Wheatgrass seeding and is no longer expected to conform to the Ecological Site Description

## 2. Licensed Livestock Use

Over the grazing seasons from 2006 to 2009, livestock actual use on this permit has been voluntarily reduced by the permittee. The reduction of livestock use has varied dependent on available forage due to growing conditions. Table 2-1 summarizes the actual use data for this time period and compares the actual use to the permitted use.

**Table 2.1. Cattle Camp/Cave Valley Allotment (SUA) Actual Use**

<b>Grazing Year</b>	<b>Number of Cattle</b>	<b>Use Period</b>	<b>Actual Use (AUMs)</b>	<b>Percent Permitted AUMs</b>
<b>Active</b>	<b>81</b>	<b>5/15-11/30</b>	<b>533</b>	<b>100%</b>
2009	*88	6/20-11/29	419	79%
2008	*72	6/17-11/18	369	69%
2007	*75	6/14-12/5	399	75%
2006	*83	6/14-11/30	410	77%

\*Numbers of livestock varied within each grazing season. This number is the greatest number of livestock in the permitted area that year. The AUMs are the actual AUMs calculated for that grazing season.

**Table 2.2. Douglas Point Allotment Actual Use**

<b>Grazing Year</b>	<b>Number of Cattle</b>	<b>Use Period</b>	<b>Actual Use (AUMs)</b>	<b>Percent Permitted AUMs</b>
<b>Active</b>	<b>183</b>	<b>4/1-5/31</b>	<b>367</b>	<b>100%</b>
2010	90	4/1-6/15	225	61%
2009	80	4/1-6/15	199	54%
2008	90	4/1-6/15	225	61%
2007	90	4/1-5/31	180	49%
2006	100	4/1-5/30	197	54%

**Table 2.3. Sawmill Bench Allotment Actual Use**

<b>Grazing Year</b>	<b>Number of Cattle</b>	<b>Use Period</b>	<b>Actual Use (AUMs)</b>	<b>Percent Permitted AUMs</b>
<b>Active</b>	<b>90</b>	<b>11/10-12/17</b>	<b>112</b>	<b>100%</b>
2009	60	11/10-12/31	103	92%
2008	60	11/10-12/17	75	67%
2007	40	11/10-1/31	109	97%
2006	65	11/10-1/1	113	101%

### **3. Line-point Intercept Cover Studies**

Canopy cover is the percent of ground covered by a vertical projection of the outermost perimeter of the natural spread of foliage, including small openings (Swanson 2006).

The line-point intercept is a rapid, accurate method for quantifying soil cover, including vegetation, litter, rocks and biotic crusts. These measurements are related to wind and water erosion, water infiltration and the ability of the site to resist and recover from degradation.

Line-point intercept cover studies have been conducted on all three of the allotments for this permit

Table 3.1 summarizes data collected at these key areas and the ecological site approximation for each site.

**Table 3.1. SUA of Cattle Camp/Cave Valley Allotment Vegetation Cover and Composition**

Key Area	Range Site	Existing Basal and Crown Cover (%)	ESD Approx. Basal and Crown Cover (%)	Existing Vegetation Composition	ESD Approx Vegetation Composition
BW-01	Loamy 10-12" (028BY007NV)	48%	20-30%	68% Grasses 6% Forbs 27% Shrubs	65% Grasses 10% Forbs 25% Shrubs
CC-07	Loamy 10-12" (028BY007NV)	33%	20-30%	23% Grasses 51% Forbs 26% Shrubs	65% Grasses 10% Forbs 25% Shrubs
CCCV21	Loamy 10-12" (028BY007NV)	37%	20-30%	75% Grasses 3% Forbs 22% Shrubs	65% Grasses 10% Forbs 25% Shrubs

**Ecological Site Description for Cattle Camp/Cave Valley Allotment SUA**

Site BW-01, CC-07 and CCCV 21 are within the same Ecological Site Description a Loamy 10-12" ARTR2/ACTH7. These sites are located on low rolling hills and upper piedmont slopes on all exposures. Slopes range from 2% to 50%, but slope gradients of 4% to 15% are most typical. Elevations are 6400 to 7000 feet. The plant community is dominated by Thurber's needlegrass, bluebunch wheatgrass and big sagebrush. Potential vegetative composition is about 65% grasses, 10% forbs and 25% shrubs and trees. Approximate ground cover (basal and crown) is 20% to 30%.

The soils in this site are mostly moderately deep to deep and well drained. Surface soils are medium to coarse textured. The available water holding capacity is low to moderate and some soils are modified with high volumes of rock fragments throughout the soil profile. Runoff is slow to medium and the potential for sheet and rill erosion varies with slope gradient.

**Table 3.2 Line Point Intercept Data Summary Key Areas BW-01 (June 2009)**

Study site	Range Site	Existing Vegetative Cover (%)	Existing Total Cover
BW-01	Loamy 10-12". (028BY007NV)	47%	73%
Grass	Common Name	Existing Vegetative Cover (%)	
HECO26	needleandthread grass	16%	
ACHY	Indian ricegrass	4%	
ELELE	bottlebrush squirreltail	3%	
BRTE	cheatgrass	8%	
Forbs	Common Name	Existing Vegetative Cover (%)	
Phlox	Phlox	2%	
ERIOG	Eriogonum	1%	
Shrubs/Trees	Common Name	Existing Vegetative Cover (%)	
ARTRW	Wyoming big sagebrush	8%	
Bristlecone	Bristlecone tree	2%	
CHVI8	rabbitbrush	3%	

**Table 3.3. Line Point Intercept Data Summary Key Areas CC-07 (June 2009)**

Study site	Range Site	Existing Vegetative Cover (%)	Existing Total Cover
CC-07	Loamy 10-12". (028BY007NV)	33%	47%
Grass	Common Name	Existing Vegetative Cover (%)	
HECO26	needleandthread grass	4%	
POSE	Sandberg bluegrass	3%	
AGCR	Crested wheatgrass	3%	
Forbs	Common Name	Existing Vegetative Cover (%)	
Phlox	Phlox	12%	
PPFF	Unknown forb	3%	
Shrubs/Trees	Common Name	Existing Vegetative Cover (%)	
ARTRW	Wyoming big sagebrush	8%	

**Table 3.4. Line Point Intercept Data Summary Key Areas CCCV 21 (June 2009)**

Study site	Range Site	Existing Vegetative Cover (%)	Existing Total Cover
CCCV 21	Loamy 10-12". (028BY007NV)	37%	49%
Grass	Common Name	Existing Vegetative Cover (%)	
AGCR	Crested wheatgrass	28%	
Forbs	Common Name	Existing Vegetative Cover (%)	
Phlox	Phlox	1%	
Shrubs/Trees	Common Name	Existing Vegetative Cover (%)	
ARTRW	Wyoming big sagebrush	3%	
ARNO	Black sagebrush	4%	
CHVI8	rabbitbrush	1%	

**Ecological Site Description for Douglas Point Allotment**

Site DP-01 is located within the ESD of a silty 5-8"; this soil occurs on alluvial plains, fan skirts, and inset fans on all exposures. Slopes range from 0 to 8%, but slope gradients of 0 to 2% are typical. Elevations are 4000 to about 6000 feet. The plant community is dominated by winterfat. Potential vegetative composition is about 25% grasses, 5% forbs and 70% shrubs.

Soils in this site are very deep and moderately well to well drained. Surface soils are typically very fine sandy loams to silt loams. The surface layer of these soils will normally develop a vesicular crust, inhibiting water infiltration and seedling emergence. Permeability is moderate to slow with moderate to high available water holding capacity.

Sites DP-02 and DP-03 are located within the ESD of a shallow calcareous loam 8-10"; this soil occurs on summits and side slopes of lower piedmont slopes and low hills on all exposures. Slopes range from 2 to 50% but slope gradients of 2 to 15% are most typical. Elevations are 5000 to 6500 feet. The plant community is dominated by black sagebrush, Indian ricegrass and needleandthread grass. Potential vegetative composition is about 50% grasses, 5% forbs, and 45% shrubs.

Soils in this site are typically shallow and well drained. They usually have a hardpan or restrictive layer within the main rooting depth. Most of these soils are high in calcium carbonates, especially in the subsoil. Soil textures are generally loams to gravelly loams. The available water holding capacity is very low to low, water intake rates are slow to moderate and runoff is slow to moderate.

Site DP-04 is located within the ESD of a loamy 8-10"; this soil occurs on fan piedmonts, rock pediments and low rolling hills. Slopes range from 2 to 50%, but slope gradients of 4 to 15% are most typical. Elevations are 5000 to 6500 feet. The plant community is dominated by Wyoming big sagebrush, Indian ricegrass and needleandthread grass. Potential vegetative composition is about 50% grasses, 5% forbs, and 45% shrubs and trees.

The soils in this site are moderately deep to deep and well drained. The available water holding capacity varies with soil texture and soil depth, ranging from low to moderate. Surface soils are 3 to 10 inches thick and are moderately coarse to medium textured. Many soils are modified with a high volume of gravels, cobbles or stones throughout the profile.

**Table 3.5. Douglas Point Allotment Vegetation Cover and Composition**

Key Area	Range Site	Existing Basal and Crown Cover (%)	ESD Approx. Basal and Crown Cover (%)	Existing Vegetation Composition	ESD Approx Vegetation Composition
DP-01	Silty 5-8" (029XY020NV)	22%	10-20%	0% Grasses 5 % Forbs 95% Shrubs	25% Grasses 5% Forbs 70% Shrubs
DP-02 **	Shallow Calcareous Loam 8-10" (028BY011NV)				
DP-03	Shallow Calcareous Loam 8-10" (028BY011NV)	49%	15-20%	8% Grasses 0% Forbs 92% Shrubs	50% Grasses 5% Forbs 45% Shrubs
DP-04	Loamy 8-10" (028BY010NV)	39%	10-20%	0% Grasses 0% Forbs 100% Shrubs	50% Grasses 5% Forbs 45% Shrubs

\*\* Study not preformed at this location

**Ecological Site Description for Douglas Point Allotment**

Site DP-01 is located within the ESD of a silty 5-8"; this soil occurs on alluvial plains, fan skirts, and inset fans on all exposures. Slopes range from 0 to 8%, but slope gradients of 0 to 2% are typical. Elevations are 4000 to about 6000 feet. The plant community is dominated by winterfat. Potential vegetative composition is about 25% grasses, 5% forbs and 70% shrubs.

Soils in this site are very deep and moderately well to well drained. Surface soils are typically very fine sandy loams to silt loams. The surface layer of these soils will normally develop a vesicular crust, inhibiting water infiltration and seedling emergence. Permeability is moderate to slow with moderate to high available water holding capacity.

Sites DP-02 and DP-03 are located within the ESD of a shallow calcareous loam 8-10"; this soil occurs on summits and side slopes of lower piedmont slopes and low hills on all exposures. Slopes range from 2 to 50% but slope gradients of 2 to 15% are most typical. Elevations are

5000 to 6500 feet. The plant community is dominated by black sagebrush, Indian ricegrass and needleandthread grass. Potential vegetative composition is about 50% grasses, 5% forbs, and 45% shrubs.

Soils in this site are typically shallow and well drained. They usually have a hardpan or restrictive layer within the main rooting depth. Most of these soils are high in calcium carbonates, especially in the subsoil. Soil textures are generally loams to gravelly loams. The available water holding capacity is very low to low, water intake rates are slow to moderate and runoff is slow to moderate.

Site DP-04 is located within the ESD of a loamy 8-10"; this soil occurs on fan piedmonts, rock pediments and low rolling hills. Slopes range from 2 to 50%, but slope gradients of 4 to 15% are most typical. Elevations are 5000 to 6500 feet. The plant community is dominated by Wyoming big sagebrush, Indian ricegrass and needleandthread grass. Potential vegetative composition is about 50% grasses, 5% forbs, and 45% shrubs and trees.

The soils in this site are moderately deep to deep and well drained. The available water holding capacity varies with soil texture and soil depth, ranging from low to moderate. Surface soils are 3 to 10 inches thick and are moderately coarse to medium textured. Many soils are modified with a high volume of gravels, cobbles or stones throughout the profile.

**Table 3.6. Line Point Intercept Data Summary Key Areas DP-01(June 2009)**

Study site	Range Site	Existing Vegetative Cover (%)	Existing Total Cover
DP-01	Silty 5-8 (029XY020NV)	22%	62%
Grass	Common Name	Existing Vegetative Cover (%)	
		0%	
Forbs	Common Name	Existing Vegetative Cover (%)	
MENTZ	Blazing star	1%	
Shrubs/Trees	Common Name	Existing Vegetative Cover (%)	
KRLA	winterfat	19%	
ATCA	Fourwing saltbrush	2%	

**Table 3.7. Data Summary Key Area DP-03**

Study site	Range Site	Existing Vegetative Cover (%)	Existing Total Cover
DP-03	Shallow Calcareous Loam 8-10” (028BY011NV)	49%	78%
Grass	Common Name	Existing Vegetative Cover (%)	
BRTE	cheatgrass	2%	
POSE	Sandberg bluegrass	1%	
ACHY	Indian ricegrass	1%	
Forbs	Common Name	Existing Vegetative Cover (%)	
		0%	
Shrubs/Trees	Common Name	Existing Vegetative Cover (%)	
ARNO	Black sagebrush	43%	
ATCA	Fourwing saltbrush	2%	

**Table 3.8. Data Summary Key Area DP-04**

Study site	Range Site	Existing Vegetative Cover (%)	Existing Total Cover
DP-04	Loamy 8-10” (028BY010NV)	39%	64%
Grass	Common Name	Existing Vegetative Cover (%)	
		0%	
Forbs	Common Name	Existing Vegetative Cover (%)	
		0%	
Shrubs/Trees	Common Name	Existing Vegetative Cover (%)	
ARTRW	Wyoming big sagebrush	39%	

**Table 3.9. Sawmill Bench Allotment Vegetation Cover and Composition**

Key Area	Range Site	Existing Cover (%)	ESD Approx. Basal and Crown Cover (%)	Existing Vegetation Composition	ESD Approx Vegetation Composition
SB-01	Loamy 8-10" (028BY010NV) Crested Wheatgrass seeding	31%	10-20%	100% Grasses 0% Forbs 0% Shrubs	50% Grasses 5% Forbs 45% Shrubs

**Ecological Site Description for Sawmill Bench Allotment**

Site SB-01 is located within the ESD of a loamy 8-10"; this soil occurs on fan piedmonts, rock pediments and low rolling hills. Slopes range from 2 to 50%, but slope gradients of 4 to 15% are most typical. Elevations are 5000 to 6500 feet. The plant community is dominated by Wyoming big sagebrush, Indian ricegrass and needleandthread grass. Potential vegetative composition is about 50% grasses, 5% forbs, and 45% shrubs and trees.

The soils in this site are moderately deep to deep and well drained. The available water holding capacity varies with soil texture and soil depth, ranging from low to moderate. Surface soils are 3 to 10 inches thick and are moderately coarse to medium textured. Many soils are modified with a high volume of gravels, cobbles or stones throughout the profile.

**Table 3.10. Data Summary Key Area SB-01**

Study site	Range Site	Existing Vegetative Cover (%)	Existing Total Cover
SB-01	Loamy 8-10" (028BY010NV)	31%	66%
Grass	Common Name	Existing Vegetative Cover (%)	
AGCR	Crested wheatgrass	27%	
POSE	Sandberg bluegrass	4%	
Forbs	Common Name	Existing Vegetative Cover (%)	
		0%	
Shrubs/Trees	Common Name	Existing Vegetative Cover (%)	
		0%	

**4. Precipitation Data**

Data from the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA) recording Station at Yelland Air Field in Ely, Nevada is being used for this assessment. The average annual precipitation from 1971 to 2000 is 9.87 inches.

Table 4.1. National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA) recording Station at Yelland Air Field in Ely, Nevada

YEAR	ANNUAL PRECIP. (inches)	YEAR	ANNUAL PRECIP. (inches)	YEAR	ANNUAL PRECIP. (inches)
1980	12.78	1990	8.76	2000	10.12
1981	10.29	1991	9.98	2001	6.7
1982	14.47	1992	9.78	2002	4.52
1983	14.84	1993	10.06	2003	8.54
1984	14.84	1994	9.22	2004	8.99
1985	9.89	1995	12.1	2005	13.0
1986	8.6	1996	7.31	2006	9.26
1987	12.3	1997	9.5	2007	6.76
1988	8.66	1998	12.32	2008	7.42
1989	6.66	1999	6.28	2009	9.83

Precipitation data can be used to calculate a yield index for each year (Sneva et al. 1983). In calculating the yield index, the first step is to calculate the crop yield (effective precipitation). For the Intermountain Big Sagebrush Region this includes precipitation from September through June.

The first step was to calculate the crop yield, the effective annual precipitation for plant growth occurring between September and June of each year. The crop yield for each year was arrayed to determine the averaged median long term crop yield. The average crop yield for the Yelland Air Field reporting station was 8.46 inches. The individual yearly crop yields during the evaluation period were then divided by the long term average crop yield to determine a precipitation index for each year. The yield index was then determined from the precipitation index by using the linear regression equation  $\hat{Y} = -23 + 1.23X$ , where  $\hat{Y}$  represents the yield index and  $x$  represents the precipitation index. Table 12 shows the precipitation and yield indices for the Yelland Air Field data.

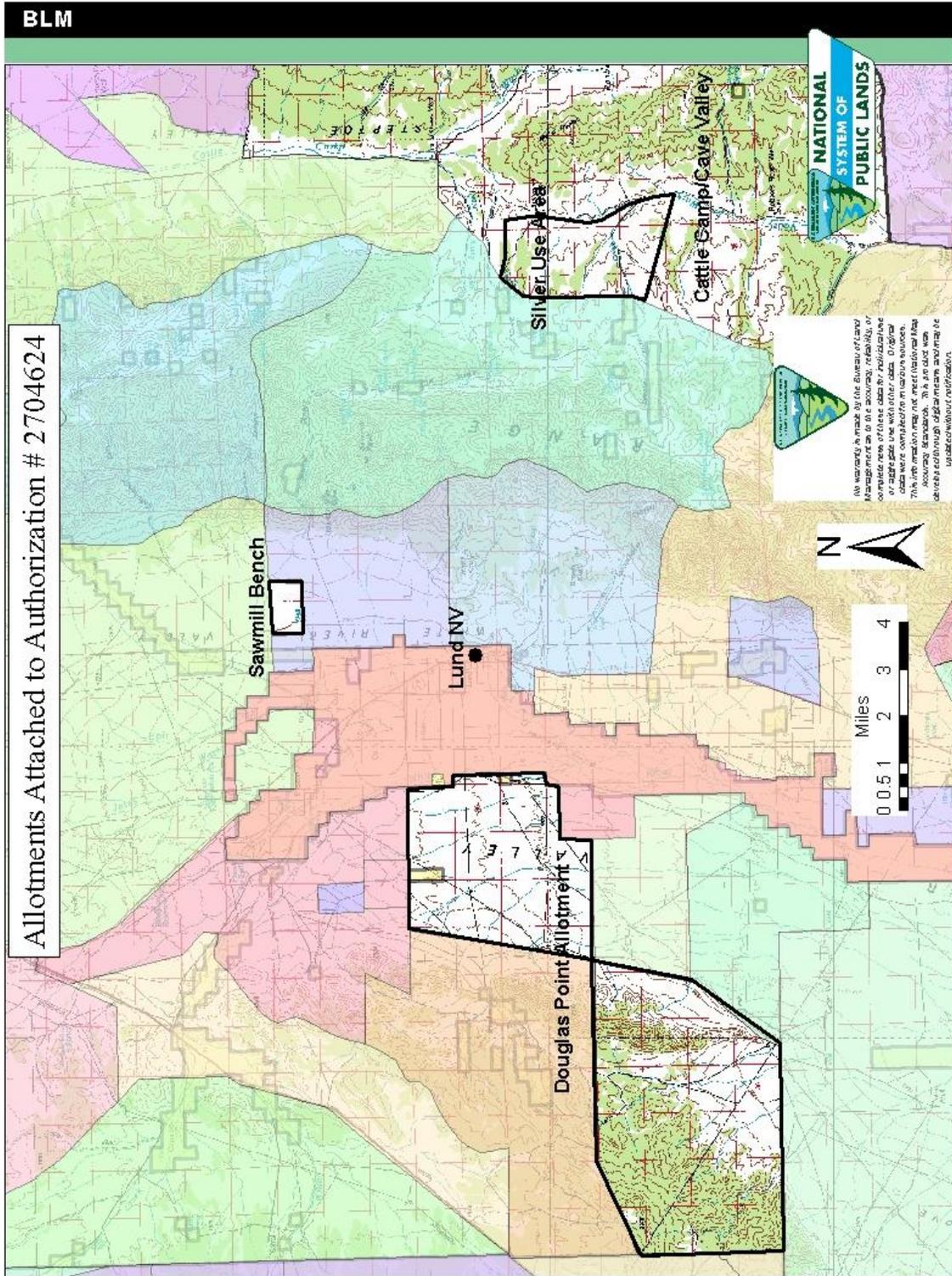
The yield index for 2007 was 59. Factoring precipitation (the yield index) into the utilization level to derive a stocking rate for the seeding indicates the stocking level is consistent with the level identified in the evaluation.

Precipitation was lower than normal in 2007 and 2008. The crop yield was 5.62 inches in 2007 and 5.46 inches in 2008. The crop yield is considered the effective precipitation which falls between September and June. The normal value or thirty year average is 8.46 inches. The precipitation index for 2007 was 66 and for 2008 it was 65 or approximately 2/3rds the normal precipitation. The yield index for 2007 was 59 and for 2008 it was 57. The yield index is used to predict the amount of forage expected as a result of the effective precipitation amount for a given year. A value below 100 indicates less predicted forage production than a normal year as result of decreased precipitation. A value higher than 100, indicates increased predicted forage production resulting from the increased precipitation. Increased production as a result of precipitation would likely increase the percent crown cover.

Sneva, Forest, C. M. Britton. August 1983. Adjusting and forecasting herbage yields in the Intermountain Big Sagebrush Region of the Steppe Province. Agricultural Experimental Station, Oregon State University, Corvallis. Station Bulletin 659, Page 61.

Table 4.2. Crop Yield, Precipitation Index and Yield Index for Yelland Field Reporting Station.			
YEAR	CROP YIELD	PRECIPITATION INDEX	YIELD INDEX
1995	12.77	151	163
1996	5.59	66	58
1997	7.84	93	91
1998	10.37	123	128
1999	7.07	84	80
2000	6.70	79	74
2001	5.15	61	52
2002	4.41	52	41
2003	6.89	81	77
2004	5.43	64	56
2005	12.2	144	154
2006	8.32	98	98
2007	5.62	66	59
2008	5.46	64	56
2009	8.27	98	97

APPENDIX I(B) MAPS



Map 1. Cattle Camp/Cave Valley Allotment SUA pasture, Douglas Point, and Sawmill Bench Allotments

**APPENDIX I(C)**  
**TERMS AND CONDITIONS OF 2000-2010 PERMIT**  
**Cattle Camp/Cave Valley Silver Use Area (SUA),**  
**Douglas Point, and Sawmill Bench Allotment.**

Table 6. 2000-2010 Permit for Cattle Camp/Cave Valley Silver Use Area, Douglas Point, and Sawmill Bench Allotment.

Allotment Name and Number	Livestock Number/Kind	Grazing Period	% Public Land*	Type Use	AUMs **
Cattle Camp/Cave Valley Silver Use Area (00903)	81 Cattle	5/15 to 11/30	100	Active	533
Douglas Point (00810)	183 Cattle	4/01 to 5/31	100	Active	367
Sawmill Bench (00807)	90 Cattle	11/10 to 12/17	100	Active	112
*% Public Land is the percent of public land for billing purposes. **AUMs may differ from Active Permitted Use due to a rounding difference with the number of livestock and the period of use.					
Allotment AUMs Summary					
Allotment Name	ACTIVE AUMS	SUSPENDED AUMS	GRAZING PERMITTED USE		
Cattle Camp/Cave Valley Silver Use Area (00903)	533	0	533		
Douglas Point (00810)	368	744	1,112		
Sawmill Bench (00807)	114	0	114		

Livestock Management Practices - Terms and Conditions

In accordance with 43 CFR §4130.3 and §4130.3-2 the following terms and conditions shall be included in the term grazing permit for Authorization Number 2704624 for the Cattle Camp/Cave Valley Silver Use Area, Douglas Point Allotment and the Sawmill Bench Allotment:

Grazing use on the Douglas Point Allotment shall be in accordance with the final multiple-use decision dated December 12, 1990. Cattle use in the southwest pasture may be made only if the existing pipeline from summit spring is maintained to a functional state or water is hauled to the pasture in quantity sufficient to support the licensed numbers.

Grazing use on the Cattle Camp/Cave Valley Allotment shall be in accordance with the final multiple-use decision dated February 10, 1997. The designated use area is the Silver Use Area, also known as the south portion of the Bull Whack Pasture. The permittee has fence and cattle guard maintenance.

To improve livestock distribution, the placement of mineral block and/or salt blocks will be a minimum distance of ½ mile from water in flat country and out of the canyon bottoms and draws with placement on the ridge tops in mountainous country as approved by the authorized officer.

Annual billing for grazing use in the Cattle Camp/Cave Valley SUA will be after-the-fact, and will be based on an actual use grazing report which shall be submitted within 15 days after the end of the grazing period. If no actual grazing use report a billing will be issued for the allotment total active preference.

Additional Stipulations Common to All Grazing Allotments:

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. The payment of your grazing fees is due on or before the date specified in the grazing bill. This date is generally the opening date of your allotment. If payment is not received within 15 days of the due date, you will be charged a late fee assessment of \$25 or 10 percent of the grazing bill, whichever is greater, not to exceed \$250. Payment with Visa, MasterCard or American Express is accepted. Failure to make payment within 30 days of the due date may result in trespass action.
5. 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.
6. If future monitoring data indicates that Standards and Guidelines for Grazing Administration are not being met due to livestock grazing, the permit will be reissued subject to revised terms and conditions.
7. The permittee is responsible for all maintenance of assigned range improvements including wildlife escape ramps for both permanent and temporary water troughs.
8. 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.

## Appendix II Migratory Birds

The following data reflect survey blocks and/or incidental sightings of bird species from the Atlas of the Breeding Birds of Nevada (Floyd et al. 2007). These data represent birds that were confirmed, probably, or possibly breeding near the project boundaries. No survey blocks were within the project boundaries. These data are not comprehensive, and additional species not listed here may be present within the project area.

American robin - *Turdus migratorius*  
Ash-throated flycatcher – *Myiarchus cinerascens*  
Black-headed grosbeak – *Pheucticus melanocephalus*  
Black-throated sparrow – *Amphispiza bilineata*  
Black-throated gray warbler – *Dendroica nigrescens*  
Blue-gray gnatcatcher – *Poliophtila caerulea*  
Brewer’s blackbird – *Euphagus cyanocephalus*  
Brewer’s sparrow – *Spizella breweri*  
Broad-tailed hummingbird – *Selasphorus platycercus*  
Brown-headed cowbird – *Molothrus ater*  
Cassin’s finch – *Carpodacus cassinii*  
Chipping sparrow – *Spizella passerina*  
Clark’s nutcracker – *Nucifraga columbiana*  
Common nighthawk – *Chordeiles minor*  
Common poorwill – *Phalaenoptilus nuttallii*  
Ferruginous hawk – *Buteo regalis* \*  
Gray flycatcher – *Empidonax wrightii*  
Green-tailed towhee – *Pipilo chlorurus*  
Hammond’s flycatcher – *Empidonax hammondi*  
Hermit thrush – *Catharus guttatus*

House finch – *Carpodacus mexicanus*  
Juniper titmouse – *Baeolophus ridgwayi*\*  
Loggerhead shrike – *Lanius ludovicianus*\*  
Mountain bluebird – *Sialia currucoides*  
Mourning dove – *Zenaida macroura*  
Northern flicker – *Colaptes auratus*  
Northern harrier – *Circus cyaneus*  
Pinyon jay – *Gymnorhinus cyanocephalus*\*  
Prairie falcon – *Falco mexicanus*\*  
Red-tailed hawk – *Buteo jamaicensis*  
Red-winged blackbird – *Agelaius phoeniceus*  
Rock wren – *Salpinctes obsoletus*  
Sage sparrow – *Amphispiza belli*  
Sage thrasher – *Oreoscoptes montanus*  
Say’s phoebe – *Sayornis saya*  
Spotted towhee – *Pipilo maculatus*  
Stellar’s jay – *Cyanocitta stelleri*  
Vesper sparrow – *Pooecetes gramineus*\*  
Violet-green swallow – *Tachycineta thalassina*  
Warbling vireo – *Vireo glivus*  
Western kingbird – *Tyrannus verticalis*  
Western meadowlark – *Sturnella neglecta*  
Western scrub-jay – *Aphelocoma californica*  
Western wood-pewee – *Contopus sordidulus*

\*BLM Sensitive Species

**Appendix III**  
**RISK ASSESSMENT FOR NOXIOUS & INVASIVE WEEDS**  
**Term Grazing Permit Renewal for Authorization Number 2704624**  
**Cattle Camp/Cave Valley, Douglas Point & Sawmill Bench Allotments**  
**White Pine County, Nevada**

The BLM proposes to issue and fully process a new term grazing permit for Authorization Number 2704624 and authorize grazing on the Cattle Camp/Cave Valley SUA, Sawmill Bench, Douglas Point Allotments (Figure 1, Appendix 1). The renewal of the term grazing permit would be for a period of up to ten years from 2010 to 2020. Livestock number and kind, and permitted use will continue in accordance with the terms of the current permit and Final Multiple Use Decision (12/12/1990). Utilization levels for winterfat on the Douglas Point Allotment would be set at 30% due to the close proximity of weeds such as halogeton, cheatgrass and Russian thistle.

**Table 2. Proposed Action 2010-2020 Term Permit for #2704624**

Allotment Name and Number	Livestock Number/Kind	Grazing Period Begin End	% Public Land*	Type Use	AUMs **
Cattle Camp/Cave Valley SUA (00903)	81 Cattle	5/15 - 11/30	100	Active	533
Douglas Point (00810) North East Pasture	86 Cattle	4/15 – 6/15	100	Active	175
Douglas Point (00810) South West Pasture	94 Cattle	4/15 – 6/15	100	Active	192
Sawmill Bench (00807)	90 Cattle	11/10 – 12/17	100	Active	112
*% Public Land is the percent of public land for billing purposes. **AUMs may differ from Active Use due to a rounding difference with the number of livestock and the period of use.					
Allotment Summary (AUMs)					
Allotment	Active AUMs	Suspended AUMs	Permitted Use AUMs		
Cattle Camp/Cave Valley SUA (00903)	533	0	533		
Douglas Point (00810)	368	744	1,112		
Sawmill Bench (00807)	114	0	114		

In Alternative 1 livestock management on the Cattle Camp/Cave Valley and Sawmill Bench Allotments will remain the same as the current permit. The Douglas Point Allotment would have 175 AUM's from the North East Pasture placed into voluntary non-use. The permittee has already periodically reduced livestock numbers in the North East Pasture of the Douglas Point Allotment over the past 5 grazing seasons. This was done because of the low forage availability caused by drought. Due to the poor vegetative composition of the North East Pasture of the Douglas Point Allotment, 175 livestock AUM's will be placed into voluntary non-use until this

pasture has received a successful treatment and/or is meeting the Rangeland Health Standards. Utilization levels for winterfat on the Douglas Point Allotment will be set at 30% due to the close proximity of weeds such as Halogeton, cheatgrass and Russian thistle. With Authorized Officers approval only, a portion of the AUMs placed into voluntary non-use may be used in the South West Pasture of the Douglas Point Allotment to remove cheatgrass. On years with exceptional cheatgrass growth cattle may be moved into the designated area of the pasture outside of the permitted season-of-use for no more than 2 weeks time at each location.

No field weed surveys were completed for this project. Instead the Ely District weed inventory data was consulted. There are currently no known infestations of weeds within the boundaries of the Sawmill Bench allotment. The following species are found within the boundaries of the Douglas Point allotment:

<i>Lepidium draba</i>	Hoary cress
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The following species are found within the boundaries of the Cattle Camp/Cave Valley allotment:

<i>Acroptilon repens</i>	Russian knapweed
<i>Cirsium arvense</i>	Canada thistle
<i>Hyoscyamus niger</i>	Black henbane
<i>Lepidium draba</i>	Hoary cress

The following species are found along roads and drainages leading to all three allotments:

<i>Acroptilon repens</i>	Russian knapweed
<i>Carduus nutans</i>	Musk thistle
<i>Centaurea stoebe</i>	Spotted knapweed
<i>Cirsium arvense</i>	Canada thistle
<i>Cirsium vulgare</i>	Bull thistle
<i>Hyoscyamus niger</i>	Black henbane
<i>Lepidium draba</i>	Hoary cress
<i>Lepidium latifolium</i>	Tall whitetop
<i>Linaria dalmatica</i>	Dalmatian toadflax
<i>Onopordum acanthium</i>	Scotch thistle
<i>Tamarix spp.</i>	Salt cedar

These allotments were last inventoried for noxious weeds in 2002. While not officially inventoried the following non-native invasive weeds probably occur in or around the allotment: cheatgrass (*Bromus tectorum*), 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
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	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 (6) at the present time. Grazing can increase the populations of the noxious and invasive weeds already within the permitted areas and could aid in the introduction of weeds from surrounding areas. However the design feature of the proposed action would help to prevent weeds from establishing or spreading. As part of a good grazing plan, the establishment of desirable forages is integral to the weed management program. Desirable forage that emerges during the growing season should be managed to increase its competitiveness. The design features of the proposed action including the utilization levels of native plants will help prevent weeds from establishing or spreading; and improve native vegetation.

**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 (6) at the present time. If new weed infestations establish within the permitted area this could have an adverse impact those native plant communities including

reducing productive rangeland by out competing desirable forage species. Also, an increase of cheatgrass could alter the fire regime in the area. Also salt from the soil accumulates in the halogeton plant tissues and leaches from dead plants and roots back onto the soil surface increasing salinity and favoring establishment of halogeton over other species. Soil nutrient levels change significantly under halogeton cover. The proposed action includes measures to increase native plants and help prevent weeds from establishing and/or spreading. The alternative includes additional measures to prevent cheatgrass from spreading and increase native plant establishment.

**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 (20). 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.
- 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.
- 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/Mindy Seal

Mindy Seal  
Natural Resource Specialist

7/28/2010

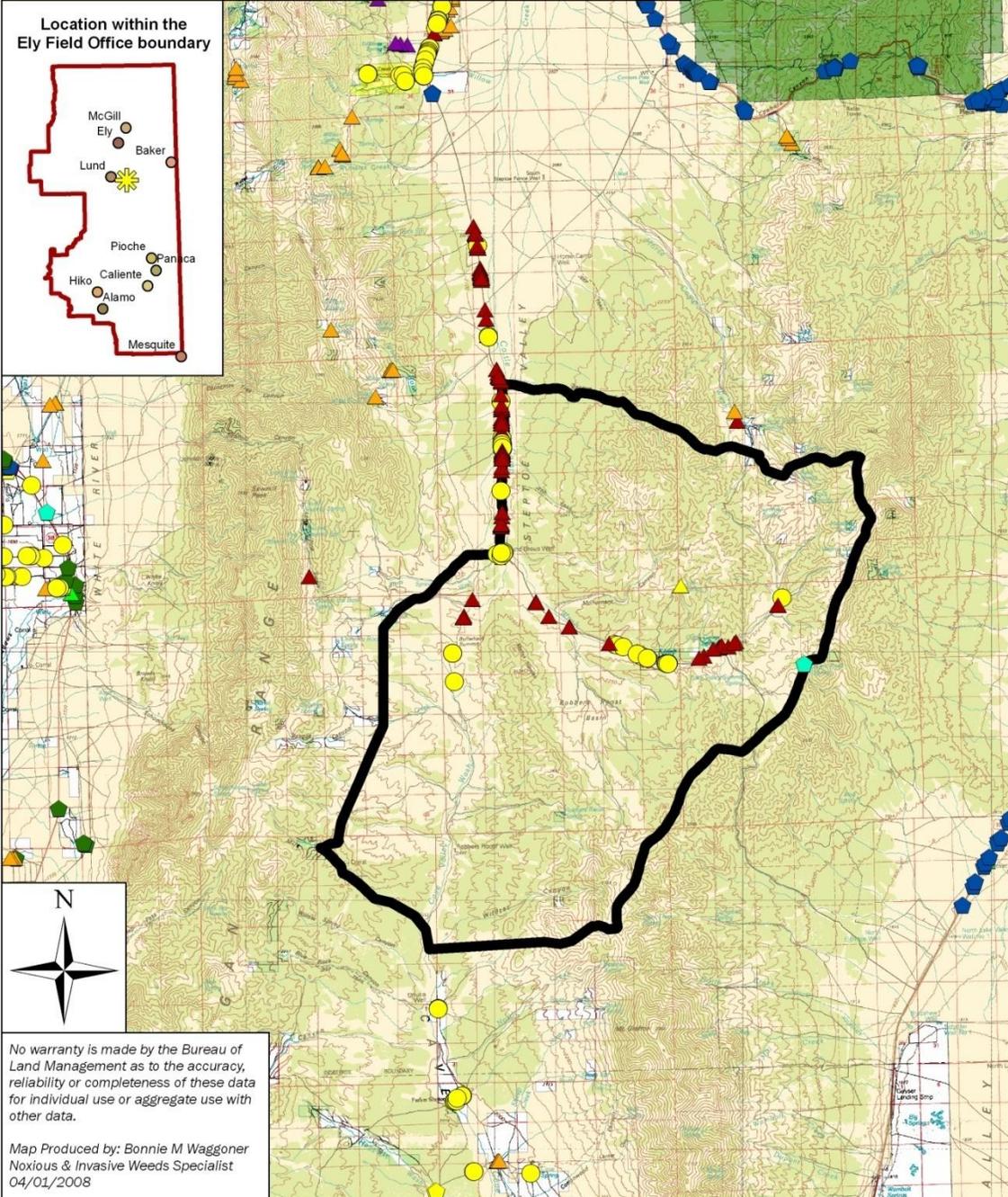
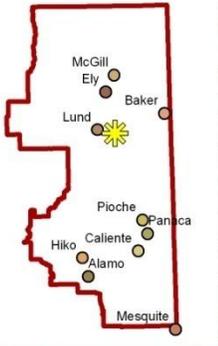
Date

# Cattle Camp/Cave Valley Allotment Term Permit Renewal

## Documented Noxious & Invasive Weed Infestations

**BLM**

Location within the Ely Field Office boundary



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.

Map Produced by: Bonnie M Waggoner  
Noxious & Invasive Weeds Specialist  
04/01/2008

### Legend

- |                      |                                     |                  |
|----------------------|-------------------------------------|------------------|
| ▲ BLACK HENBANE      | ◆ SALT CEDAR                        | ■ BLM            |
| ▲ BULL THISTLE       | ◆ SCOTCH THISTLE                    | ■ FOREST SERVICE |
| ▲ CANADA THISTLE     | ◆ SPOTTED KNAPWEED                  | ■ PRIVATE        |
| ▲ DALMATIAN TOADFLAX | ◆ TALL WHITETOP                     | ■ REGIONAL PARK  |
| ▲ MUSK THISTLE       | ● WHITETOP/HOARY CRESS              |                  |
| ▲ RUSSIAN KNAPWEED   | ▭ Cattle Camp/Cave Valley allotment |                  |



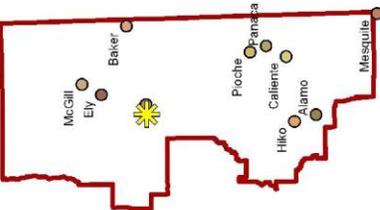
1:166,788

**Ely District Office**

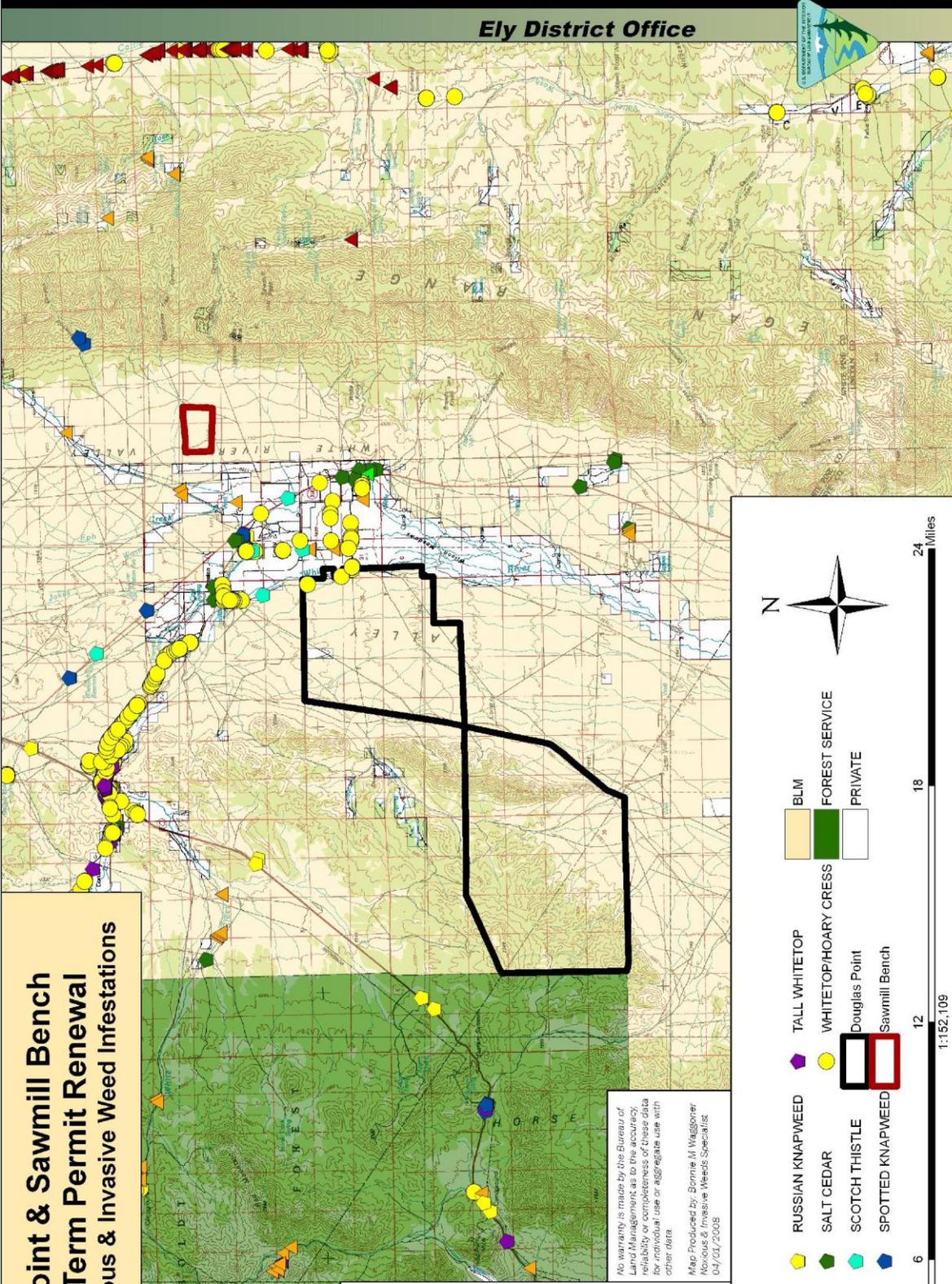


**Douglas Point & Sawmill Bench  
Allotment Term Permit Renewal  
Documented Noxious & Invasive Weed Infestations**

**Location within the  
Ely Field Office boundary**



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.  
Map Produced by: Bonnie M Waggoner  
Noxious & Invasive Weeds Specialist  
04/01/2008



**Legend**

- ▲ BLACK HEMBANE
- ▲ BULL THISTLE
- ▲ DALMATIAN TOADFLAX
- ▲ MUSK THISTLE
- ◆ RUSSIAN KNAPWEED
- ◆ SALT CEDAR
- ◆ SCOTCH THISTLE
- ◆ SPOTTED KNAPWEED
- ◆ TALL WHITETOP
- WHITETOP/HOARY CRESS
- ◻ Douglas Point
- ◻ Sawmill Bench
- BLM
- FOREST SERVICE
- PRIVATE

