



## United States Department of the Interior

### BUREAU OF LAND MANAGEMENT

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**FINDING OF NO SIGNIFICANT IMPACT (FONSI)  
For Environmental Assessment DOI-BLM-NV-L020-2010-026-EA  
Term Permit Renewal for Authorization No. 2704624  
Silver Use Area of the Cattle Camp/Cave Valley Allotment (No. 00903),  
Douglas Point Allotment (No. 00810), and Sawmill Bench Allotment (No. 00807)**

**Finding of No Significant Impact (FONSI):**

I have reviewed the Environmental Assessment DOI-BLM-NV-L020-2010-026-EA. After consideration of the environmental effects analyzed in the EA, and incorporated herein, I have determined that Alternative 1 associated with fully processing the term permit renewal subject to the management practices identified in the EA will not significantly affect the quality of the human environment and that an Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) is not required. Environmental Assessment DOI-BLM-NV-L020-2010-026-EA has been reviewed through the interdisciplinary team process.

**Rationale:**

The finding and conclusion of no significant impact is based on my consideration of the Council on Environmental Quality's (CEQ) criteria for significance (40 CFR 1508.27), both with regard to the context and the intensity of impacts described in the EA.

**Context:**

The Silver Use Area of the Cattle Camp/Cave Valley Allotment encompasses approximately 3,800 acres and is located within the Cave Valley Watershed and the South Steptoe Watershed. The Sawmill Bench Allotment encompasses approximately 300 acres and is located in the White River Watershed. The Douglas Point Allotment is also in the White River Watershed and encompasses approximately 19,300 acres. The allotments associated with this term permit renewal are approximately 50 to 80 air miles southwest of Ely, Nevada and are found in both Nye and White Pine Counties.

**Intensity:**

**1) *Impacts that may be both beneficial and adverse.***

The Environmental Assessment DOI-BLM-NV-L020-2010-026-EA has considered both beneficial and adverse impacts of alternative. None of the impacts analyzed in the EA approach the threshold of significance, i.e. exceeding air or drinking water quality standards, contributing to a decline in the population of a listed species, etc. In other words, none of the resource impacts are intensely adverse or beneficial.

**2) *The degree to which the proposed action affects public health or safety.***

Alternative 1 would not result in potentially substantial or adverse impacts to public health and safety.

**3) *Unique characteristics of the geographic area such as proximity to historic or cultural resources, park lands, prime farmlands, wetlands, wild and scenic rivers, or ecologically critical areas.***

The Ely Proposed Resource Management Plan/Final Environmental Impact Statement (RMP/EIS) has evaluated the impacts of livestock grazing on natural resources and unique geographic characteristics found on public lands throughout the district, and decisions were made to eliminate grazing in areas where the impacts could cause unacceptable degradation to natural resources and unique geographic characteristics. No site specific concerns were identified in association of the EA.

**4) *The degree to which the effects on the quality of the human environment are likely to be highly controversial.***

Whereas it may be controversial to continue to permit livestock grazing on public lands, there is little controversy as to what the effects include. The Ely RMP/EIS analyzed several alternatives with various effects to conflicting uses of natural resources and disclosed the effects and decisions were made to continue livestock grazing in areas deemed appropriate.

**5) *The degree to which the possible effects on the human environment are highly uncertain or involve unique or unknown risks.***

The effects of livestock grazing are well known and documented. Management practices are employed to meet resource objectives and maintain or achieve rangeland health. The Ely RMP/EIS analyzed the effects of livestock grazing throughout the district and has eliminated grazing in areas where unique environmental risks could occur.

**6) *The degree to which the action may establish a precedent for future actions with significant effects or represents a decision in principle about a future consideration.***

Alternative 1 will not establish a precedent for future actions with significant effects or represent a decision in principle about a future consideration. Renewing the grazing permit does not establish a precedent for other Rangeland Health Assessments and Decisions. Any future actions or projects within the area or in surrounding areas will be analyzed and evaluated on their own merits and would be implemented or not, independent of the actions currently selected.

**7) *Whether the action is related to other actions with individually insignificant but cumulatively significant impacts.***

No significant cumulative impacts have been identified in the EA. Past, present, and reasonably foreseeable future actions in the cumulative impact assessment area would not result in cumulatively significant impacts. For any actions that may be proposed in the future, further environmental analysis, including the assessment of cumulative impacts, would be required.

**8) The degree to which the action may adversely affect districts, sites, highways, structures, or objects listed in or eligible for listing in the NRHP or may cause loss or destruction of significant scientific, cultural, or historical resources.**

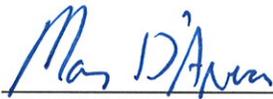
Districts, sites, highways, structures, or objects listed in or eligible for listing in the National Register of Historic Places (NRHP) were identified in the project area and considered in the EA. The proposed action will not cause the loss or destruction of significant scientific, cultural or historical resources.

**9) The degree to which the action may adversely affect an endangered or threatened species or its habitat that has been determined to be critical under the ESA of 1973.**

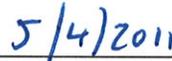
The BLM is required by the Endangered Species Act of 1973, as amended, to ensure that no action on the public lands jeopardizes a threatened, endangered, or proposed species. Threatened, Endangered, or Proposed species are not known to be present in the project area as analyzed through the EA.

**10) Whether the action threatens a violation of Federal, State, or local law or requirements imposed for the protection of the environment.**

The proposed action will not violate or threaten a violation of any Federal, State, or local law or requirement imposed for the protection of the environment.



Mary D'Aversa  
Field Manager  
Schell Field Office



Date

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

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**Final Environmental Assessment  
DOI-BLM-NV-L020-2010-026-EA  
May 4, 2011**

**Term Permit Renewal for Authorization No. 2704624  
Silver Use Area of the Cattle Camp/Cave Valley Allotment (No. 00903),  
Douglas Point Allotment (No. 00810), and Sawmill Bench Allotment (No. 00807)**

*Location: White Pine County, NV*

U.S. Department of the Interior  
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## **1.0 INTRODUCTION:**

This document identifies issues, analyzes alternatives, and discloses the potential environmental impacts associated with the term permit renewal of Authorization No. 2704624 on the Silver Use Area of the Cattle Camp/Cave Valley Allotment (No. 00903), the Douglas Point Allotment (No. 00810), and the Sawmill Bench Allotment (No. 00807). The aforementioned allotments are located approximately 50 to 80 air miles south and southwest of Ely, Nevada and are found almost entirely in White Pine County. A portion of the Southwest pasture of the Douglas Point Allotment crosses into Nye County.

The Bureau of Land Management (BLM) Schell Field Office proposes to issue and fully process a term grazing permit for Authorization No. 2704624 and authorize grazing on the Silver Use Area of the Cattle Camp/Cave Valley Allotment, the Douglas Point Allotment, and the Sawmill Bench Allotment. Changes to the existing permit are recommended as necessary to achieve the Standards for Nevada's Northeastern Great Basin Area as established by the Nevada Northeastern Great Basin Resource Advisory Council (RAC) in 1997.

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 (Appendix I). The following is a summary of the Standards Determination Document (SDD) by allotment for achievement of the standards.

### **SUMMARY OF THE STANDARDS DETERMINATION.**

<b>ALLOTMENT/ PASTURE</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/Silver Use Area</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

### **1.1 PURPOSE AND NEED**

The purpose and need for this proposal is to manage livestock grazing on public lands to provide for a level of grazing consistent with multiple use, sustained yield, and watershed function and health; to authorize grazing use in accordance with applicable laws, regulations, policies, and land use plans; and to achieve rangeland health standards.

### **1.2 RELATIONSHIP TO PLANNING**

The Proposed Action is in conformance with the Ely District Record of Decision and Approved Resource Management Plan (ROD/RMP) signed August 20, 2008, which states on pages 85 and 86, "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." and "To allow

livestock grazing to occur in a manner and at levels consistent with multiple use, sustained yield, and the standards for rangeland health.”

Management Action LG-1 in the ROD/RMP 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.”

### **1.2.1 RELATIONSHIP TO OTHER PLANS**

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

- Northeastern Great Basin Resource Advisory Council (RAC) Standards and Guidelines (1997)
- White Pine County Public Lands Policy Plan (2007)
- White Pine County Elk Management Plan (revised 2007)
- State Protocol Agreement between the Bureau of Land Management, Nevada and the Nevada Historic Preservation Office (2009)

### **1.2.2 TIERING**

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

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

The proposal to renew the term grazing permit for Authorization No. 2704624 was initiated on March 15, 2008 with a presentation to an interdisciplinary team of resource specialists. 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 team. After the scoping meeting the following issues were identified:

- Cultural Resources
- Noxious and Invasive, Non-Native Weed Species
- Special Status Animals
- Fish and Wildlife (including Migratory Birds)

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 No. 2704624, and authorize grazing on the Silver Use Area of the Cattle Camp/Cave Valley Allotment, the Douglas Point Allotment, and the Sawmill Bench Allotment. The term grazing permit would be issued for a period not to exceed ten years.

Livestock management on the Cattle Camp/Cave Valley and Sawmill Bench Allotments would remain the same as the current permit. The period of use on the Douglas Point Allotment would be changed from 4/1 through 5/31 to 4/15 through 6/15, and use would be divided between two pastures. Changes to the permits terms and conditions are recommended to comply with the best management practices put forth in the Ely RMP/EIS.

In accordance with 43 CFR 4110.3, 4130.3 and 4130.3-1, active use, season-of-use and grazing management practices would be changed as follows for Authorization No. 2704624.

**FROM:**

Allotment/Pasture	Livestock Number & Kind	Period of Use	Permitted Use (AUMs)	% Public Land	Type Use
Cattle Camp-Cave Valley/Silver Use Area	81 Cattle	5/15 – 11/30	533	100	Active
Sawmill Bench	90 Cattle	11/10 – 12/17	112	100	Active
Douglas Point	183 Cattle	4/1 – 5/31	367	100	Active

**TO:**

Allotment/Pasture	Livestock Number & Kind	Period of Use	Permitted Use (AUMs)	% Public Land	Type Use
Cattle Camp-Cave Valley/Silver Use Area	81 Cattle	5/15 - 11/30	533	100	Active
Sawmill Bench	90 Cattle	11/10 – 12/17	112	100	Active
Douglas Point/ Northeast Pasture	86 Cattle	4/15 – 6/15	175	100	Active
Douglas Point/ Southwest Pasture	94 Cattle	4/15 – 6/15	192	100	Active

## ALLOTMENT SUMMARY

Allotment	Permitted Use AUMs		Suspended AUMs	Preference AUMs
	Active	Non-use		
Cattle Camp/Cave Valley	533	0	0	533
Sawmill Bench	114	0	0	114
Douglas Point	367	0	744	1,112*

\*AUMs may not add up due to rounding.

### Terms and Conditions

In accordance with 43 CFR 4130.3-2, the following terms and conditions would be included in Authorization No. 2704624 on the Silver Use Area of Cattle Camp/Cave Valley Allotment, Sawmill Bench Allotment and Douglas Point Allotment:

1. The allowable use level for winterfat on the Douglas Point Allotment will be 30% of current year's growth. The allowable use level for perennial grasses, including crested wheatgrass, and forbs will be 50% of current year's growth.
2. Livestock will be moved to another use area or removed from the allotment before allowable use levels are met or no later than five days after allowable use levels are met.
3. Annual billing for grazing use on the Silver Use Area of the Cattle Camp/Cave Valley Allotment, the Douglas Point Allotment, and the Sawmill Bench Allotment will be after-the-fact, and will be based on an actual use grazing report which shall be submitted twice annually. The first report is due within 15 days after the end of the grazing on the Douglas Point Allotment, and the second report within 15 days after the end of the grazing on the Sawmill Bench Allotment. The Sawmill Bench Allotment and the Silver Use Area of the Cattle Camp/Cave Valley Allotment will be reported together. If no actual grazing use report is submitted then a bill will be issued for the allotment total active use.

### Additional Terms and Conditions 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 are consistent with multiple-use objective. Such deviations will require an application and written authorization from the authorized officer prior to grazing use.
2. The authorized officer is requiring that an actual use report (Form 4130-5) be submitted within 15 days after completing your annual grazing use.
3. Grazing use will be in accordance with the Standards and Guidelines for Grazing Administration. The Standards and Guidelines have been developed by the respective Resource Advisory Council and approved by the Secretary of the Interior on February 12, 1997. Grazing use will also be in accordance with 43 CFR Subpart 4180 - Fundamentals of Rangeland Health and Standards and Guidelines for Grazing Administration.

4. If future monitoring data indicates that Standards and Guidelines for Grazing Administration are not being met, the permit will be reissued subject to revised terms and conditions.
5. 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.
6. The permittee is responsible for all maintenance of assigned range improvements including wildlife escape ramps for both permanent and temporary water troughs.
7. 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.
8. The placement of mineral or salt supplements would be a minimum distance of ½ mile from known water sources, riparian areas, winterfat dominated sites, sensitive sites, populations of special status plant species, and cultural resource sites. Mineral and salt supplements would also be one mile from active sage-grouse leks. Placing supplemental feed (i.e. hay, grain, pellets, etc.) on public lands without authorization is prohibited.

**2.2 ALTERNATIVE 1: NON-USE NORTHEAST PASTURE OF THE DOUGLAS POINT ALLOTMENT**

Under Alternative 1, livestock management on the Cattle Camp/Cave Valley and Sawmill Bench Allotments would remain the same as the current permit, but the period of use on the Douglas Point Allotment would be changed from 4/1 through 5/31 to 4/15 through 6/15. In addition, 175 AUMs in the Northeast Pasture of the Douglas Point Allotment would be placed into non-use. The permittee has already periodically reduced livestock numbers in the Northeast Pasture of the Douglas Point Allotment over the past five grazing seasons. This was done due to low forage availability.

In accordance with 43 CFR 4110.3, 4130.3 and 4130.3-1, active use, season-of-use and grazing management practices would be changed as follows for Authorization No. 2704624.

**FROM:**

<b>Allotment/ Pasture</b>	<b>Livestock Number &amp; Kind</b>	<b>Period of Use</b>	<b>Permitted Use (AUMs)</b>	<b>% Public Land</b>	<b>Type Use</b>
Cattle Camp-Cave Valley/Silver Use Area	81 Cattle	5/15 – 11/30	533	100	Active
Sawmill Bench	90 Cattle	11/10 – 12/17	112	100	Active
Douglas Point	183 Cattle	4/1 – 5/31	367	100	Active

**TO:**

<b>Allotment/ Pasture</b>	<b>Livestock Number &amp; Kind</b>	<b>Period of Use</b>	<b>Permitted Use (AUMs)</b>	<b>% Public Land</b>	<b>Type Use</b>
Cattle Camp-Cave Valley/Silver Use Area	81 Cattle	5/15 - 11/30	533	100	Active
Sawmill Bench	90 Cattle	11/10 – 12/17	112	100	Active
Douglas Point/Northeast Pasture	86 Cattle	4/15 – 6/15	175	100	Non-use
Douglas Point/Southwest Pasture	94 Cattle	4/15 – 6/15	192	100	Active

**ALLOTMENT SUMMARY**

<b>Allotment</b>	<b>Permitted Use AUMs</b>		<b>Suspended AUMs</b>	<b>Preference AUMs</b>
	<b>Active</b>	<b>Non-use</b>		
Cattle Camp/Cave Valley	533	0	0	533
Sawmill Bench	114	0	0	114
Douglas Point	192	175	744	1,112*

\*AUMs may not add up due to rounding.

**Terms and Conditions**

In accordance with 43 CFR 4130.3-2, the following terms and conditions would be included in Authorization No. 2704624 on the Silver Use Area of Cattle Camp/Cave Valley Allotment, Sawmill Bench Allotment and Douglas Point Allotment:

1. Of the total Permitted Use for cattle, 175 AUMs will be placed in non-use for conservation and protection of the public lands. Range conditions will be evaluated periodically to determine if range conditions improves. AUMs held in non-use may be released by the authorized officer when range conditions improve in the Northeast Pasture of the Douglas Point Allotment.
2. The allowable use level for perennial grasses, including crested wheatgrass, and perennial forbs on all allotments will be 50% of current year’s growth. The allowable use level for winterfat on the Douglas Point Allotment will be 30% of current year’s growth.
3. Livestock will be moved to another use area or removed from any allotment before allowable use levels are met or no later than five days after allowable use levels are met.
4. Annual billing for grazing use on the Silver Use Area of the Cattle Camp/Cave Valley Allotment, the Douglas Point Allotment, and the Sawmill Bench Allotment will be after-the-fact, and will be based on an actual use grazing report which shall be submitted twice annually. The first report is due within 15 days after the end of the grazing on the Douglas Point Allotment, and the second report within 15 days after the end of the grazing on the Sawmill Bench Allotment. The Sawmill Bench Allotment and the Silver Use Area of the

Cattle Camp/Cave Valley Allotment will be reported together. If no actual grazing use report is submitted then a bill will be issued for the allotment total active use.

**Additional Terms and Conditions 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 are consistent with multiple-use objective. Such deviations will require an application and written authorization from the authorized officer prior to grazing use.
2. The authorized officer is requiring that an actual use report (Form 4130-5) be submitted within 15 days after completing your annual grazing use.
3. Grazing use will be in accordance with the Standards and Guidelines for Grazing Administration. The Standards and Guidelines have been developed by the respective Resource Advisory Council and approved by the Secretary of the Interior on February 12, 1997. Grazing use will also be in accordance with 43 CFR Subpart 4180 - Fundamentals of Rangeland Health and Standards and Guidelines for Grazing Administration.
4. If future monitoring data indicates that Standards and Guidelines for Grazing Administration are not being met, the permit will be reissued subject to revised terms and conditions.
5. 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.
6. The permittee is responsible for all maintenance of assigned range improvements including wildlife escape ramps for both permanent and temporary water troughs.
7. 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.
8. The placement of mineral or salt supplements will be a minimum distance of ½ mile from known water sources, riparian areas, winterfat dominated sites, sensitive sites, populations of special status plant species, and cultural resource sites. Mineral and salt supplements will also be one mile from active sage-grouse leks. Placing supplemental feed (i.e. hay, grain, pellets, etc.) on public lands without authorization is prohibited.

**2.3 NO ACTION ALTERNATIVE**

The No Action Alternative represents the status quo. The term grazing permit would be renewed without changes to grazing management or modifications to the terms and conditions. Best Management Practices (BMPs) would not be implemented; the period of use would not be changed; and AUMs would not be placed into non-use.

**CURRENT**

Allotment/Pasture	Livestock Number & Kind	Period of Use	Permitted Use (AUMs)	% Public Land	Type Use
Cattle Camp-Cave Valley/Silver Use Area	81 Cattle	5/15 – 11/30	533	100	Active
Sawmill Bench	90 Cattle	11/10 – 12/17	112	100	Active
Douglas Point	183 Cattle	4/1 – 5/31	367	100	Active

**ALLOTMENT SUMMARY**

Allotment	Permitted Use AUMs		Suspended AUMs	Preference AUMs
	Active	Non-use		
Cattle Camp/Cave Valley	533	0	0	533
Sawmill Bench	114	0	0	114
Douglas Point	367	0	744	1,112*

\*AUMs may not add up due to rounding.

**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 No. 2704624 for the Cattle Camp/Cave Valley Silver Use Area, Douglas Point Allotment and the Sawmill Bench Allotment:

1. 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.
2. 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.
3. 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.
4. 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 Terms and Conditions 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.

#### **2.4 NO GRAZING ALTERNATIVE**

The no grazing alternative would allow this grazing permit to expire and associated grazing use to cease. No terms and conditions would be needed. This alternative cannot be selected because 43 CFR 4130.2(a) states, "Grazing permits or leases **shall** (emphasis added) be issued to qualified applicants to authorize use on the public lands and other lands under the administration of the Bureau of Land Management that are designated as available for livestock grazing through land use plans. Permits or leases shall specify the types and levels of use authorized, including livestock grazing, suspended use, and conservation use. These grazing permits and leases shall also specify terms and conditions pursuant to 4130.3, 4130.3-1, and 4130.3-2." This alternative is analyzed in this EA to assist in identifying trade-offs, and help in decision making.

## ALLOTMENT SUMMARY

Allotment	Permitted Use AUMs		Suspended AUMs	Preference AUMs
	Active	Non-use		
Cattle Camp-Cave Valley	0	0	0	0
Sawmill Bench	0	0	0	0
Douglas Point	0	0	0	0

### 2.5 NOXIOUS AND INVASIVE, NON-NATIVE WEED SPECIES

A Weed Risk Assessment was completed for this grazing permit renewal on July 28, 2010. The measures listed in the Weed Risk Assessment would be followed when grazing occurs on the allotments to minimize the spread of noxious and invasive, non-native weeds.

### 2.6 MONITORING

The Ely ROD/RMP identifies monitoring as follows, “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.”

### 2.7 ALTERNATIVES CONSIDERED BUT ELIMINATED FROM FURTHER ANALYSIS

#### 2.7.1 Changing the Period of Use in both the Douglas Point Allotment and the Sawmill Bench Allotment

The interdisciplinary team had discussed changing the season of use on both the Douglas Point Allotment and Sawmill Bench Allotment. Instead of grazing the Sawmill Bench Allotment starting on 11/10, 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 Silver Use Area of the Cattle Camp/Cave Valley Allotment period 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.

#### 2.7.2 Changing Turn-Out Date for the Douglas Point Allotment

It was discussed that postponing the turn-out date on the Douglas Point Allotment would allow for critical growing season rest of 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; it was suggested not to increase livestock number. 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 permittee is authorized to graze cattle under Authorization No. 2704624 on the Silver Use Area of the Cattle Camp/Cave Valley Allotment, the Douglas Point Allotment, and the Sawmill Bench Allotment.

#### **3.2 RESOURCES/CONCERNS CONSIDERED FOR ANALYSIS**

The following items have been evaluated for the potential for impacts to occur, either directly, indirectly, or cumulatively, due to implementation of the proposed action or the alternatives. 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 3-1. Resources/Concerns Considered for Analysis**

<b>Resource/Concern Considered</b>	<b>Analyzed (Yes/No)</b>	<b>Rationale for Dismissal from Analysis or Rationale for Detailed Analysis</b>
Air Quality	No	Air quality in the affected area is unknown. Livestock grazing and trailing would contribute to ambient dust in the air temporarily, but no impacts to air quality are anticipated. Detailed analysis is not required.
Cultural Resources	Yes	The BLM is mandated to inspect each project area for cultural artifacts through section 106 of the National Historic Preservation Act of 1966.
Forest Health	No	No unique forest or woodlands are present within the allotments. No further analysis needed.
Native American Religious Concerns	No	No concerns were identified through coordination letters sent on January 8, 2010.
Federally Listed or Proposed Threatened or Endangered Species or Critical Habitat.	No	There are no federally listed or proposed threatened or endangered species within or in close proximity to the allotments.
Hazardous or Solid Wastes	No	Hazardous or Solid Wastes would not require a further analysis because none are associated with the nature of the Proposed Action or any alternatives.
Drinking/Ground Water Quality	No	No water in the allotments is used for human drinking water. Alternatives would not affect ground or surface water quality.

<b>Resource/Concern Considered</b>	<b>Analyzed (Yes/No)</b>	<b>Rationale for Dismissal from Analysis or Rationale for Detailed Analysis</b>
Wilderness	No	No Wilderness occurs within the allotments.
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 allotments.
Wetlands/Riparian Areas	No	There are no Wetlands or Riparian areas in the allotments.
Noxious and Invasive, Non-Native Weed Species	Yes	A Weed Risk Assessment was conducted (Appendix III).
Special Status Animal Species, other than those listed or proposed by the FWS as Threatened or Endangered	Yes	There is one active sage grouse lek within the Silver Use Area of the Cattle Camp/Cave Valley Allotment. There are also four active sage grouse leks outside of the pasture but within two miles of the Silver Use Area.
Wild Horses	No	There are no wild horse herd management areas within the allotments.
Fish and Wildlife (including Migratory Birds)	Yes	All three allotments provide habitat for wildlife including elk, mule deer, pronghorn antelope, and migratory birds (Appendix II). Impacts from livestock grazing on Fish and Wildlife are generally analyzed on pages 4.6-10 through 4.6-11 in the Ely RMP/EIS (November 2007).
Soil Resources	No	Impacts from livestock grazing on Soil Resources are analyzed on page 4.4-4 in the Ely RMP/EIS (November 2007).
Special Designations other than Wilderness	No	No Special Designations occur within the allotments.
Vegetation Resources/ Rangeland Health	No	Impacts from livestock grazing on Vegetation Resources are analyzed on page 4.5-9 in the Ely RMP/EIS (November 2007).  Impacts from livestock grazing on Rangeland Standards and Health are analyzed on pages 4.16-3 through 4.16-4 of the Ely RMP/EIS (November 2007).

### **3.3 CULTURAL RESOURCES**

#### **3.3.1 Affected Environment**

The goal for cultural resources in the Ely RMP/EIS 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 will 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.

#### **3.3.2 Proposed Action**

Trampling, rubbing and/or artifact displacement may occur if livestock are not dispersed properly.

#### **3.3.3 Alternative 1**

No impacts to cultural resources within the Northeast Pasture of the Douglas Point Allotment would occur because of the non-use of that pasture. Trampling, rubbing and/or artifact displacement may occur if livestock are not dispersed properly on the other pastures or allotments.

#### **3.3.4 No Action Alternative**

Impacts to cultural resources would be the same as the Proposed Action.

#### **3.3.5. No Grazing Alternative**

No impacts to cultural resources would occur because there would be no livestock grazing on the allotments.

### **3.4 NOXIOUS AND INVASIVE, NON-NATIVE WEED SPECIES**

#### **3.4.1 Affected Environment**

A Weed Risk Assessment (Appendix III) was performed for the allotments listed under Authorization No. 2704624. The noxious/invasive weeds that may be present on the allotments have been identified in that document.

#### **3.4.2 Proposed Action**

The potential spread of noxious and invasive, non-native weed species from transportation by livestock may occur. Livestock grazing, however, is not expected to increase the rate of spread for these species.

Cheatgrass may continue to spread in the three allotments increasing the risk and frequency of fires.

### **3.4.3 Alternative 1**

The spread of noxious and invasive, non-native weed species by livestock would not occur within the Northeast Pasture of the Douglas Point Allotment because of the non-use of that pasture. Impacts to noxious and invasive, non-native weed species on the other allotments would be the same as the Proposed Action.

### **3.4.4 No Action Alternative**

Impacts to noxious and invasive, non-native weed species would be the same as the Proposed Action.

### **3.4.5. No Grazing Alternative**

The potential spread of noxious and invasive, non-native weed species from transportation by livestock would not occur on the allotments associated with the Authorization No. 2704624. Noxious and invasive, non-native weed species are still expected to spread though other causes such as wind, wild animals, and humans. Courtois et al. (2004) found that 65 years of protection from grazing on 16 exclosures at different locations across Nevada failed to prevent expansion of cheatgrass into the exclosures (page 4.5-27 Ely RMP/EIS).

## **3.5 SPECIAL STATUS ANIMALS**

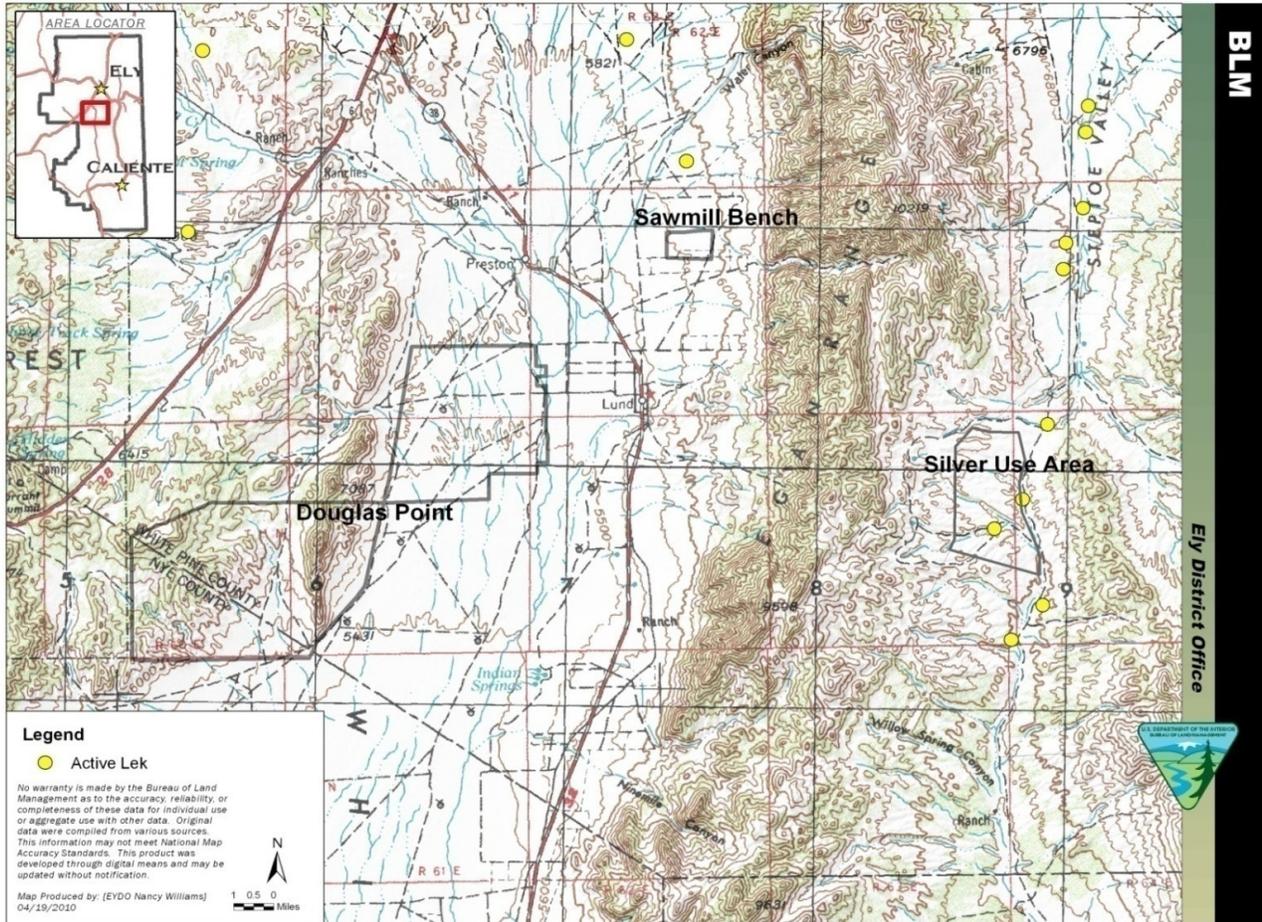
### **3.5.1 Affected Environment**

The greater sage-grouse is a high-profile BLM sensitive species that was recently determined by the U.S. 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 obligate or sagebrush/woodland dependent guild (page 4.7-10 Ely RMP/EIS).

The Silver Use Area of the Cattle Camp/Cave Valley Allotment is within the Steptoe/Cave Valley Population Management Unit (PMU), and the Douglas Point Allotment and the Sawmill Bench Allotment are within the Butte/Buck/White Pine PMU. There is one active lek within the Silver Use Area of the Cattle Camp/Cave Valley Allotment, and four active leks within two miles of the Silver Use Area boundary (Figure 1). There is breeding, 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 the Sawmill Bench Allotment, but this allotment is a crested wheatgrass seeding and may not provide potential nesting habitat due to the lack of sagebrush cover.

Based on the sage-grouse guidelines for nesting habitat presented in Connelly et al. (2000), sagebrush should comprise at least 15-25% of vegetative cover, and the perennial grass and forb component combined should comprise at least 15% of the 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.

**Figure 1.** Location of Active Sage Grouse Leks in relation to the Silver Use Area of the Cattle Camp/Cave Valley Allotment, the Douglas Point Allotment, and the Sawmill Bench Allotment.



### 3.5.2 Proposed Action

Under the Proposed Action, the vegetative conditions on the allotments may improve by establishing allowable use levels for perennial grasses and forbs and moving cattle when those levels are met. It is anticipated that these changes in grazing management would be adequate to increase herbaceous cover which is needed to provide concealment for nesting sage grouse, as well as provide a diet of forbs for sage grouse and their chicks.

The potential loss of sagebrush cover for sage grouse may occur because of the presence of cheatgrass and the risk of increased fire frequency, but not because of the changes to grazing management.

### 3.5.3 Alternative 1

Impacts to sage grouse would be the same as the Proposed Action. The additional changes to grazing management on the Douglas Point Allotment would not impact sage grouse since there is no breeding or nesting habitat on this allotment.

#### **3.5.4 No Action Alternative**

Improvements in vegetative conditions, especially increased herbaceous cover, may not occur like under the Proposed Actions because allowable use levels have not been established as terms and conditions under the current grazing permit.

#### **3.5.5 No Grazing Alternative**

Herbaceous cover of perennial grasses and forbs should increase on all allotments because there would be no cattle grazing. This should improve sage grouse habitat.

### **3.6 FISH AND WILDLIFE (INCLUDING MIGRATORY BIRDS)**

#### **3.6.1 Affected Environment**

All the allotments contain yearlong habitat for elk and mule deer. The Douglas Point Allotment and the Sawmill Bench Allotment contain yearlong pronghorn antelope habitat. The Southwest Pasture of the Douglas Point Allotment contains crucial winter mule deer habitat, and the Silver Use Area of the Cattle Camp/Cave Valley Allotment contains a small portion of crucial summer elk habitat. These allotments also provide habitat for other mammals, migratory birds, and reptiles common to the Great Basin.

#### **3.6.2 Proposed Action**

Wildlife and livestock compete for forage, cover, and water resources. Under the Proposed Action, competition for forage would decrease by establishing allowable use levels for perennial grasses and forbs and moving cattle when those levels are met. Changing the period of use on the Douglas Point Allotment from 4/1 through 5/31 to 4/15 through 6/15 and dividing the AUMs between two pastures may improve wildlife habitat on the Douglas Point Allotment.

Livestock grazing on the Silver Use Area of the Cattle Camp/Cave Valley Allotment and the Douglas Point Allotment may impact the breeding and nesting success of migratory birds because the grazing occurs during the breeding and nesting season. Some ground-nests may be trampled by cattle. Grazing on the Sawmill Bench Allotment would have no impact to migratory birds because the grazing occurs during the winter.

#### **3.6.3 Alternative 1**

Impacts to fish and wildlife, including migratory birds, on the Silver Use Area of the Cattle Camp/Cave Valley Allotment and the Sawmill Bench Allotment would be the same as the Proposed Action. There would be no impacts to migratory birds in the Northeast Pasture of the Douglas Point Allotment because of the non-use in that pasture.

#### **3.6.4 No Action Alternative**

Competition between wildlife and livestock for forage, cover and water resources would be greater than under the Proposed Action because allowable use levels have not been established as terms and conditions under the current grazing permit. Improvements of wildlife habitat may not occur like under the Proposed Actions. Impacts to migratory birds would be the same as the Proposed Action.

### **3.6.5 No Grazing Alternative**

There would be no competition between wildlife and livestock for forage, cover, and water resources because there would be no cattle grazing on the allotments under this alternative. There would also be no impacts to migratory birds.

## **4.0 CUMULATIVE IMPACTS**

The National BLM National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) Handbook (H-1790-1; 2008) states on page 57, “Determine which of the issues identified for analysis may involve a cumulative effect with other past, present and 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.” Also, a comprehensive cumulative impacts analysis can be found in section 4.28 of the Ely RMP/EIS. The cumulative effects study area (CESA) for this project is defined by the boundaries of the Silver Use Area of the Cattle Camp/Cave Valley Allotment, the Douglas Point Allotment, and the Sawmill Bench Allotment.

### **4.1 PAST ACTIVITIES**

Hunting, trapping, wildlife viewing, and other activities have historically occurred 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. Range improvements have occurred on all allotments to improve grazing management and include fencing, and livestock water developments. The entire Sawmill Bench Allotment, approximately 343 acres, was converted to a crested wheatgrass seeding in 1966.

### **4.2 PRESENT ACTIVITIES**

All allotments are currently being grazed by livestock in the manner consistent with the current grazing permit, with sheep trailing through a portion of the Douglas Point Allotment. Three sheep grazing permits trail from April 1 to April 30 in the spring with approximately 6,950 sheep. These same permits allow sheep trailing from November 1 to November 30 in the fall for the same number of sheep. Each time the sheep are moving at a minimum of five miles a day. The sheep should only take one or two days to cross the allotment. The location of the overnight sheep camp may vary slightly from year to year, but the sheep mostly stay in the same areas each spring and fall. 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. No ground disturbance has taken place, but is expected to begin in the very near future.

The Cave Valley Watershed Analysis is on-going and has identified large portions of the Silver Use Area on the Cattle Camp/Cave Valley Allotment for vegetative treatment projects.

### **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 rangeland health. Construction of the Southwest Intertie Project (SWIP) power line which crosses the Douglas Point Allotment will begin soon. Authorizing power lines within the SWIP corridor will continue through subsequent NEPA.

### **4.4 CUMULATIVE IMPACTS SUMMARY**

#### **4.4.1 Noxious and Invasive Non-Native Weed Species**

##### **4.4.1.1 Proposed Action**

Due to the sensitive nature of the soils and vegetation in much of the Douglas Point Allotment, the SWIP corridor may have a cumulative effect of increasing weeds in the area when combined with the direct impacts discussed above in Section 3.4. The new road that will be built along the power line may create more of an opportunity for weeds to be introduced to the area. Mitigation measures may be added to the terms of that environmental assessment to reduce the presence and establishment of weeds in the project area.

##### **4.4.1.2 Alternative 1**

Noxious and invasive, non-native weeds may increase with the construction of the SWIP power-line when combined with the direct impacts discussed above in Section 3.4. Mitigation measures may be added to the terms of that environmental assessment to reduce the presence and establishment of weeds in the project area.

##### **4.4.1.3 No Action Alternative**

Noxious and invasive, non-native weeds may increase with the construction of the SWIP power-line when combined with the direct impacts discussed above in Section 3.4. Mitigation measures may be added to the terms of that environmental assessment to reduce the presence and establishment of weeds in the project area.

##### **4.4.1.4 No Grazing**

Noxious and invasive, non-native weeds may increase with the construction of the power-line, but there would be no cumulative impact from this proposal since the rate of spread associated with grazing would be eliminated prior to construction of the power-line. Mitigation measures may be added to the terms of that environmental assessment to reduce the presence and establishment of weeds in the project area.

## **4.4.2 Fish and Wildlife (Include Special Status Animals and Migratory Birds)**

### **4.4.2.1 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 cumulative effects of interrelated projects. Other projects are designed to improve habitat and may have beneficial effects. The Proposed Action is designed to maintain habitat and, when combined with other actions, is not anticipated to have any cumulative effects on sage-grouse and other wildlife habitat.

### **4.4.2.2 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 cumulative effects of interrelated projects. Other projects are designed to improve habitat and may have beneficial effects. Alternative 1 is designed to maintain habitat and, when combined with other actions, is not anticipated to have any cumulative effects on sage-grouse and other wildlife habitat.

### **4.4.2.3 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 and other wildlife habitat would remain similar to those currently existing in the Silver Use Area of the Cattle Camp/Cave Valley Allotment, the Douglas Point Allotment, and the Sawmill Bench Allotment.

### **4.4.2.4 No Grazing**

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 no grazing action is designed to maintain habitat which may reduce effects to sage-grouse and other wildlife habitat. The no grazing action may provide additional support for the projects targeted at improving habitat, including the future implementation of the Cave Valley Watershed Analysis.

## **5.0 PROPOSED MITIGATION AND MONITORING**

### **5.1 PROPOSED MITIGATION**

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

### **5.2 PROPOSED MONITORING**

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

## **6.0 CONSULTATION AND COORDINATION**

### **6.1 LIST OF PREPARERS - BLM SCHELL FIELD OFFICE RESOURCE SPECIALISTS**

Chelsy Simerson	Rangeland Management Specialist
Zach Peterson/Gloria Tibbetts	Planning and Environmental Coordinator
Lorie Leshner	Archaeologist
Mindy Seal	Noxious and Invasive Weed Specialist
Nancy Williams	Wildlife Biologist
Melanie Peterson	Hazardous and Solid Waste and Safety Coordinator
Elvis Wall	Native American Coordinator
Mark D'Aversa	Hydrologist
Paul Podborny	Supervisory Resource Management Specialist

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

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

- **Permittees**  
Frank Reid  
Daren Jenson
- **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 DETERMINATION DOCUMENT  
Authorization No. 2704624  
Douglas Point Allotment (00810), Sawmill Bench Allotment (00807) and  
Silvers Use Area of Cattle Camp/Cave Valley Allotment (00903)

**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 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 Southwest pasture and is adjacent to the Northeast 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.

The current grazing term permit is issued for the period 03/1/2001 to 02/28/2011 to the authorization no. 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.

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

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

### **Cattle Camp-Cave Valley Allotment Silver Use Area**

#### **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. Approximately 50% of the Northeast 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 Southwest 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 Southwest pasture. While the Northeast 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 Northeast 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 would 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.

- 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.
- Deviations from specified grazing use dates may 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.
- The authorized officer is requiring that an actual use report (Form 4130-5) be submitted within 15 days after completing your annual grazing use.
- Grazing use will be in accordance with the Standards and Guidelines for Grazing Administration. The Standards and Guidelines have been developed by the respective Resource Advisory Council and approved by the Secretary of the Interior on February 12, 1997. Grazing use will also be in accordance with 43 CFR Subpart 4180 - Fundamentals of Rangeland Health and Standards and Guidelines for Grazing Administration.
- If future monitoring data indicates that Standards and Guidelines for Grazing Administration are not being met, the permit may be reissued subject to revised terms and conditions.
- 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.
- 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.

- The permittee is responsible for all maintenance of assigned range improvements including wildlife escape ramps for both permanent and temporary water troughs.
- 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.
- The placement of mineral or salt supplements should be a minimum distance of ½ mile from known water sources, riparian areas, winterfat dominated sites, sensitive sites, populations of special status plant species, and cultural resource sites. Mineral and salt supplements should also be one mile from active sage-grouse leks. Placing supplemental feed (i.e. hay, grain, pellets, etc.) on public lands without authorization is prohibited.

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Name Title Signature	Date
Chelsy Simerson Rangeland Management Specialist <i>Chelsy Simerson</i>	9/20/10
Mark D'Aversa <del>For</del> Soil, Water, and Riparian Resources <i>Mark D'Aversa</i>	9/21/10
Mindy Seal Noxious and Non Native Invasive Weeds <i>Mindy Seal</i>	9/20/10
Nancy William Wildlife Biologist <i>Nancy M. Williams</i>	9/20/2010
I concur:	
Mary D'Aversa Field Office Manager Schell Field Office <i>Mary D'Aversa</i>	5/2/2011

**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, would 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**

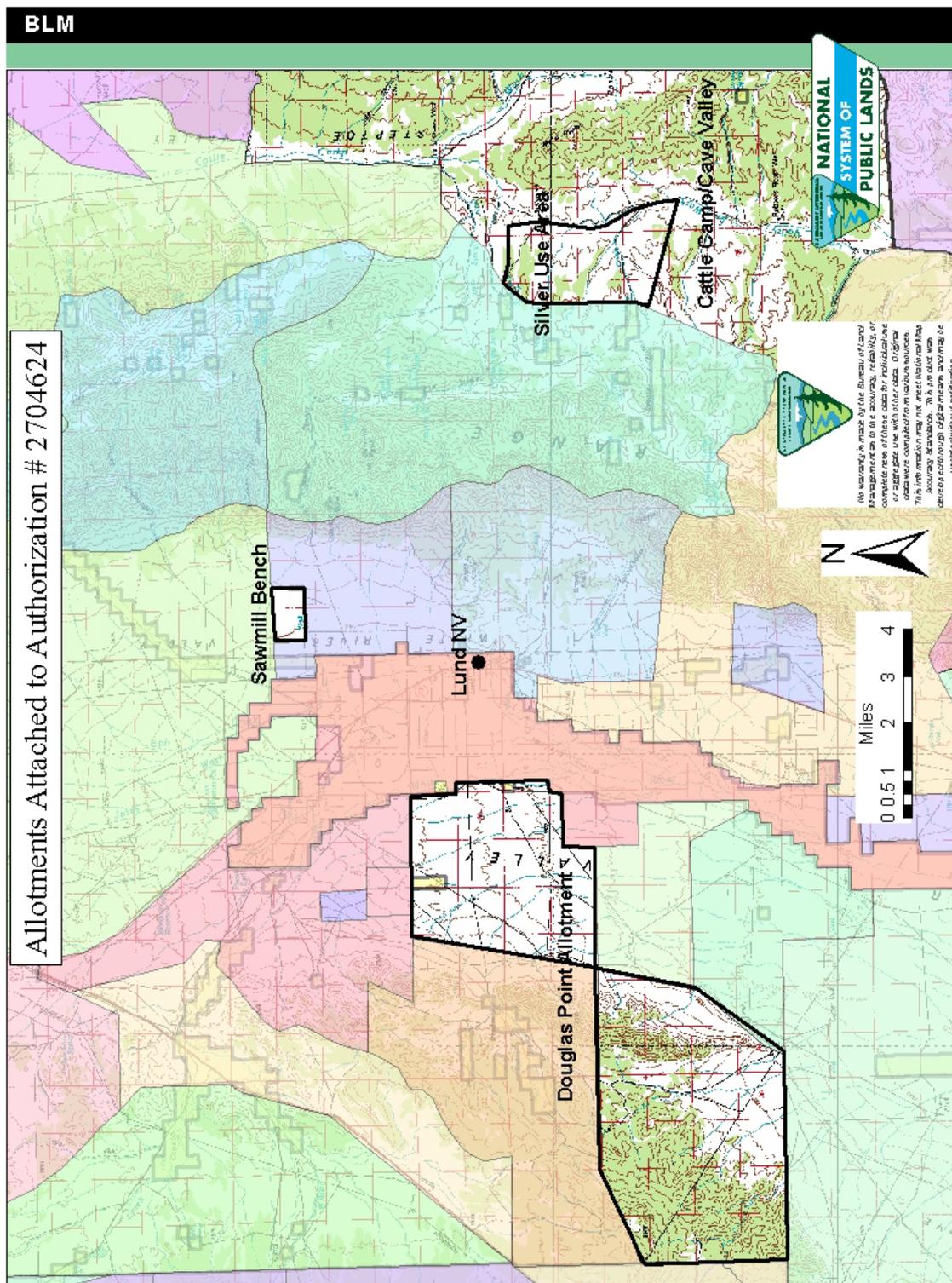
Site SB-01 is located within the ESD of a loamy 8-10”; this soil occurs on fan piedmonts, rock pediments and low rolling hills. Slopes range from 2 to 50%, but slope gradients of 4 to 15% are most typical. Elevations are 5000 to 6500 feet. The plant community is dominated by Wyoming big sagebrush, Indian 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%	

APPENDIX I(B) MAPS



Map 1. Silver Use Area of the Cattle Camp/Cave Valley Allotment, the Douglas Point Allotment, and the Sawmill Bench Allotment.

## 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 hammondii*  
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 No. 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 No. 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 No.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) Northeast Pasture	86 Cattle	4/15 – 6/15	100	Active	175
Douglas Point (00810) Southwest 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		

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 Northeast Pasture placed into non-use. The permittee has already periodically reduced livestock numbers in the Northeast 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 Northeast Pasture of the Douglas Point Allotment, 175 livestock AUM's will be placed into 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 non-use may be used in the Southwest 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:

*Lepidium draba* Hoary cress

The following species are found within the boundaries of the Cattle Camp/Cave Valley allotment:

*Acroptilon repens* Russian knapweed  
*Cirsium arvense* Canada thistle  
*Hyoscyamus niger* Black henbane  
*Lepidium draba* Hoary cress

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

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

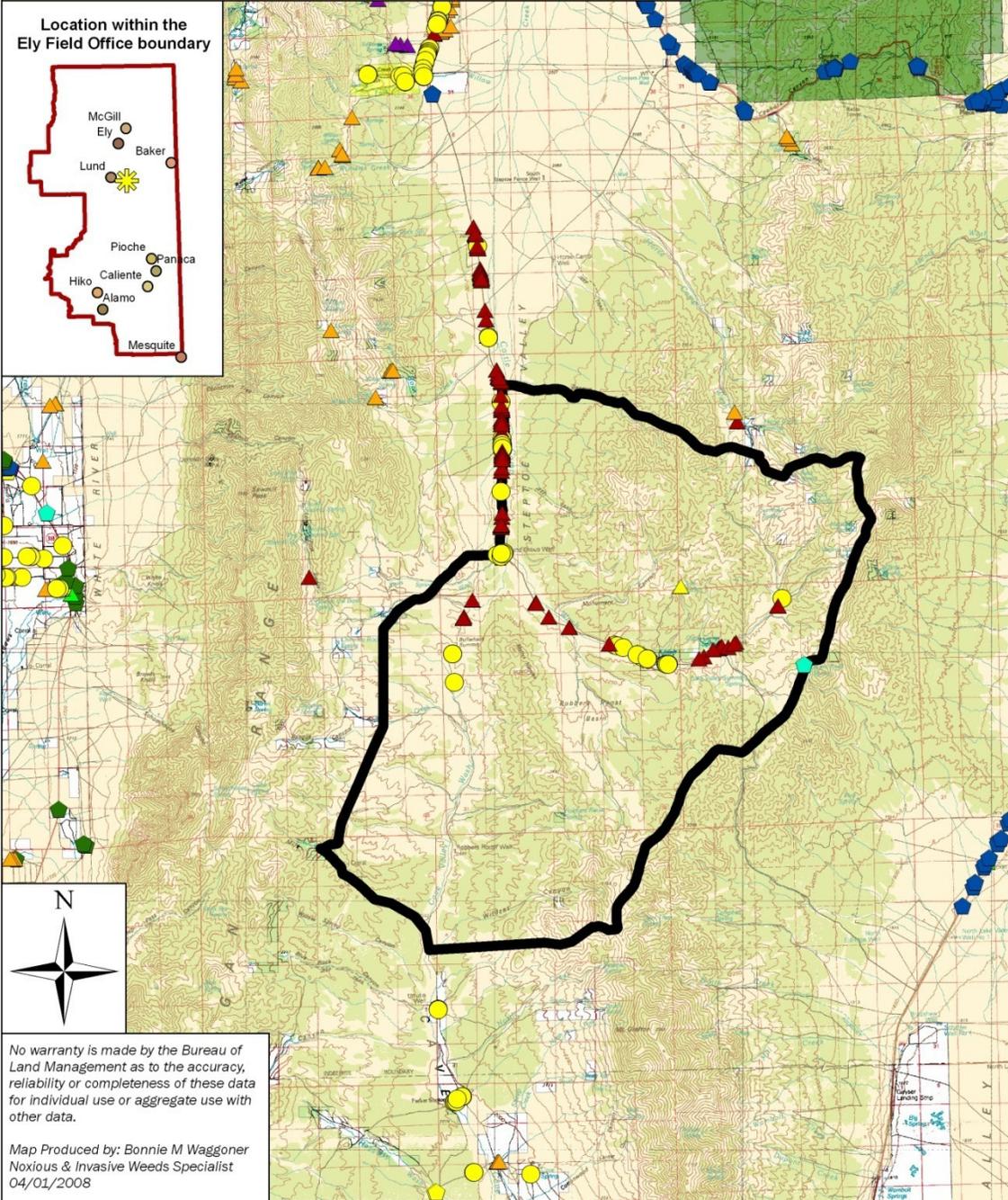
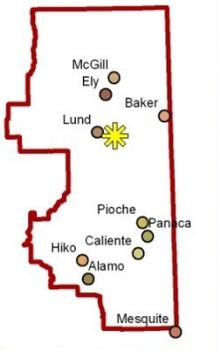
Date

# Cattle Camp/Cave Valley Allotment Term Permit Renewal

## Documented Noxious & Invasive Weed Infestations

BLM

Location within the Ely Field Office boundary

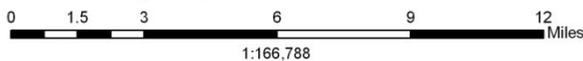


No warranty is made by the Bureau of Land Management as to the accuracy, reliability or completeness of these data for individual use or aggregate use with other data.

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 |                  |

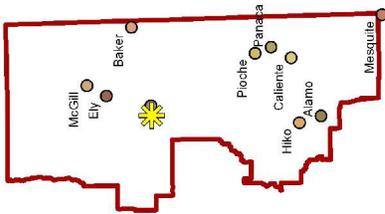


Ely District Office

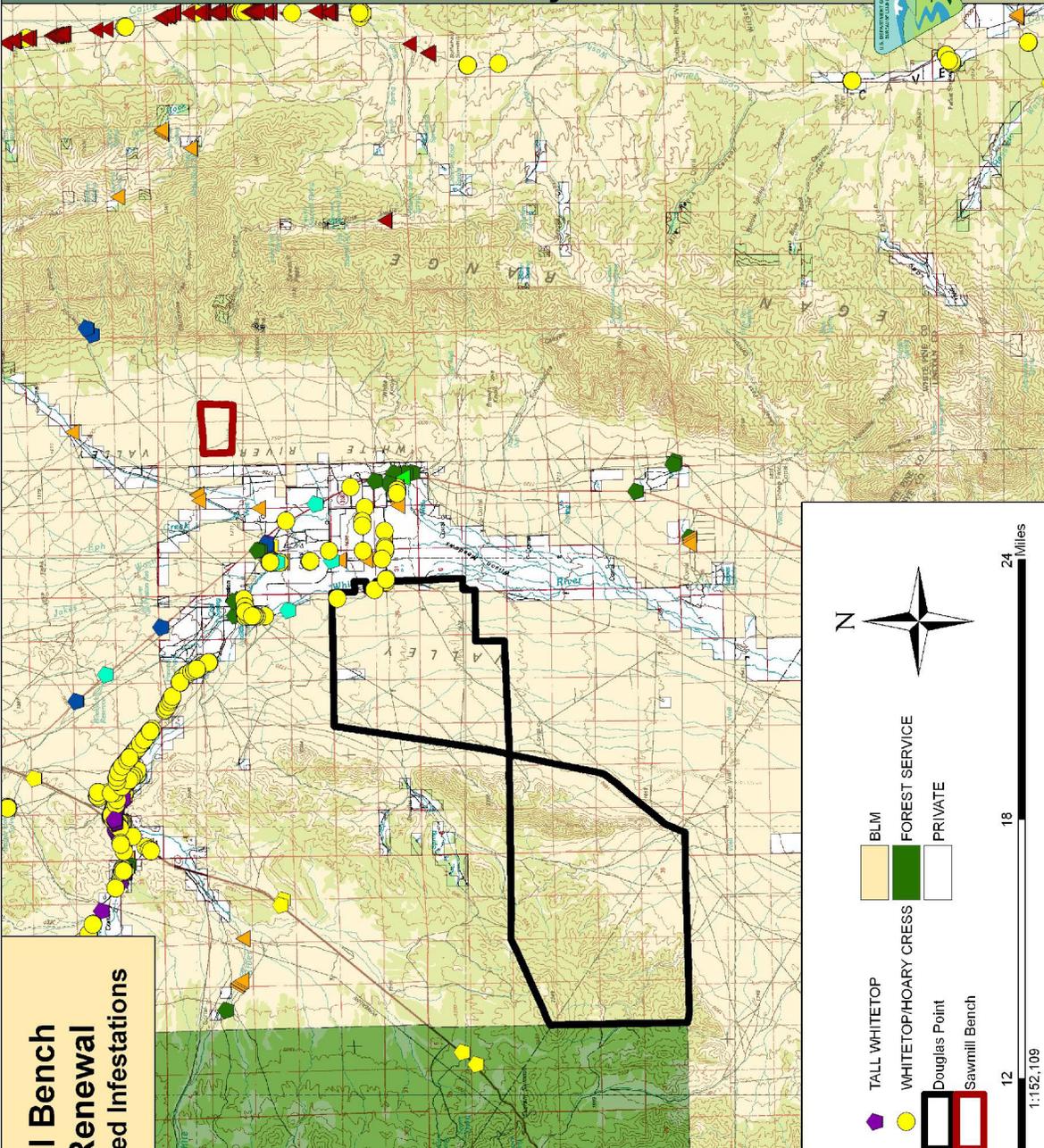


**Douglas Point & Sawmill Bench  
Allotment Term Permit Renewal  
Documented Noxious & Invasive Weed Infestations**

**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 HENBANE
- ▲ BULL THISTLE
- ▲ DALMATIAN TOADFLAX
- ▲ MUSK THISTLE
- ◆ RUSSIAN KNAPWEED
- ◆ SALT CEDAR
- ◆ SCOTCH THISTLE
- ◆ SPOTTED KNAPWEED
- ◆ TALL WHITETOP
- WHITETOP/HOARY CROSS
- ▭ Douglas Point
- ▭ Sawmill Bench
- BLM
- FOREST SERVICE
- PRIVATE

