MONTANA

DEPARTMENT OF

FISH, WILDLIFE AND PARKS

8695 Huffine Lane
Bozeman, MT 59715

April 1, 1983

Mr. A. L. Hormay
101 Acadia Street
San Francisco, CA 94131

Dear Gus:

I am sorry for being so slow in getting caught up with matters involving our grazing activities on the Wall Creek Game Range.

We had an opportunity to partially evaluate the grazing patterns by livestock on the range the past season. This coming fall and winter, we will have an opportunity to see what type of response we get from elk in relation to the livestock grazing that took place on the game range.

For the 1983 grazing season, the livestock will go back on the forest pasture during the spring and late fall season. We would plan that by the next grazing season to involve the game range again. These things of course will be tempered by your recommendations.

With the existing arrangement, we will have this summer and fall to work out some management recommendations for the area. I would hope that we can get up on some of the high forest pastures this summer so you will have an opportunity to see the complete area in more detail.

I have enclosed a map of the Wall Creek area showing our ownership, the location of fences, water, private lands and the National Forest boundary . I contacted the Madison Ranger District regarding the acreages and grazing capacities for the seven forest pastures. They indicated they would be getting this information to you very soon.

I will look forward to getting out in the field with you in the very near future.

Regards,

Arnold Foss

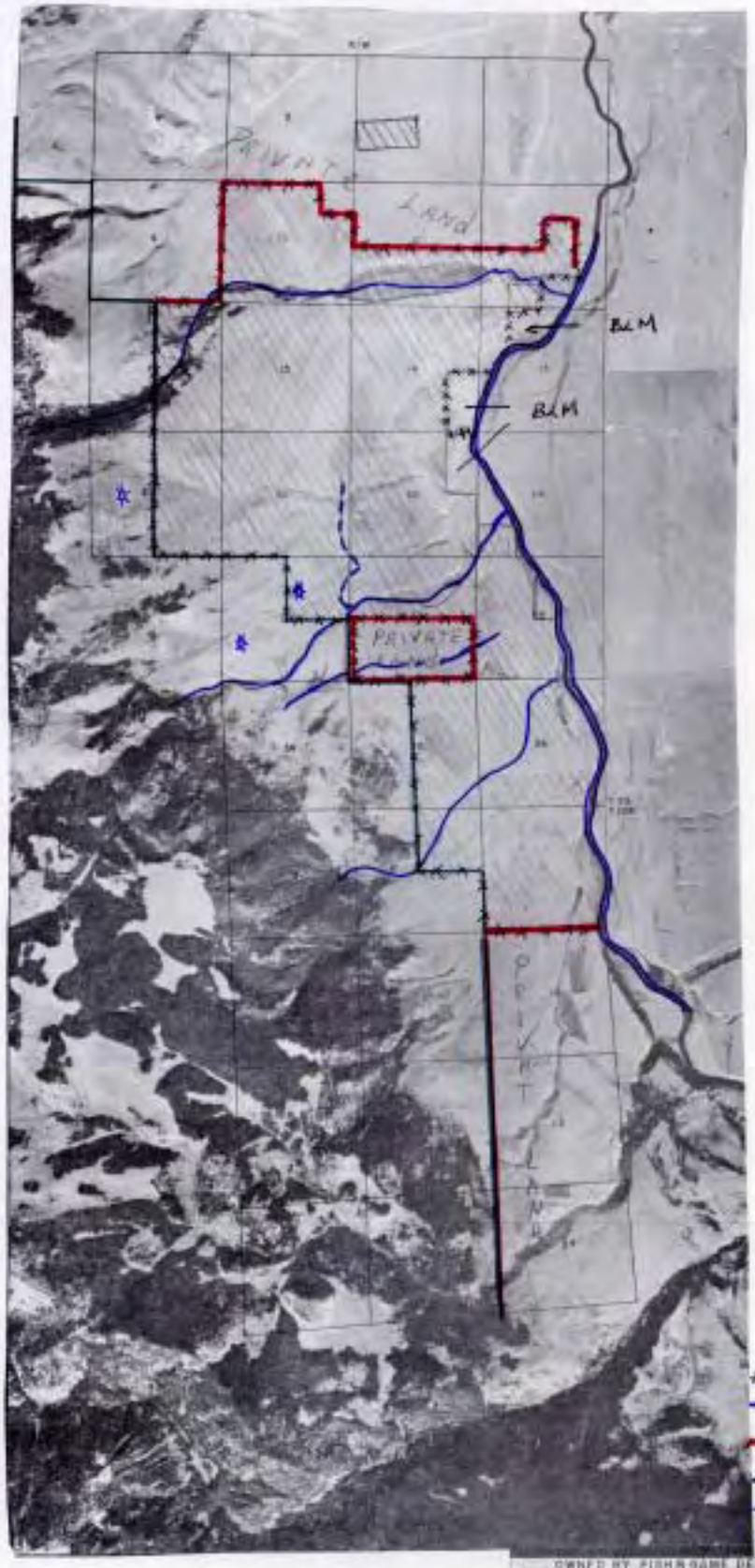
Arnold J. Foss
Regional Game Mgr.

AJF:jtb

Enc.

Gus - I talked with J. Egan regarding contracts, we will plan to use the one he recently renewed for our activities as well.

MADISON, WALL CREEK GAME RANGE



Chase. Sorry I have been so out of touch. Do you want me to pursue this matter along the lines indicated in the letter?

Hope "you all" wintered well and the coming season is a good one.

AUGUST L. HORMAY
RANGE MANAGEMENT CONSULTANT

101 ACADIA STREET • SAN FRANCISCO, CALIFORNIA 94131

1983

April 2, 1983

Plan

Maurice W. Anding
District Ranger
Helena Ranger District
3015 Park Room 498
Federal Office Bldg. Drawer 10015
Helena, Mt. 59626

Dear Maurice;

Please excuse the late reply to your letter of November 16, 1982, about the status of the 3-pasture Rest-Rotation Grazing System on the East-West French Allotment. A move of my office from the Forest Experiment Station in Berkeley to my home here in San Francisco and other matters disrupted my work program. I am still not very well organized to carry on.

I am pleased you are going with Rest-Rotation Grazing on the Allotment and with the progress you are making. The steps taken so far and those you propose are fine.

I suggest the management plan for the Allotment be reviewed by the principals involved and agreed upon to everyones satisfaction before much furthur action is taken in the field. My interest is in seeing that Rest-Rotation Grazing is applied in its best form unencumbered with measures used with continous grazing management and that the system is practical.

I appreciate that the plan developed to date may not be complete and that it is a starting plan subject to change with experience with it. However, if you send me a copy, I will be glad to review it and offer my suggestions.

The final plan can best be settled with a roun-the-table meeting and a field trip by the interests involved. Such a meeting should be held before mid-summer. By that time the system should be pretty well set up.

I am sending a copy of your letter and this one to Chase Hibbard for his information.

Sincerely,

A. L. Hormay

ALH/vv

cc: Chase Hibbard

AUGUST L. HORMAY
RANGE MANAGEMENT CONSULTANT

101 ACADIA STREET • SAN FRANCISCO, CALIFORNIA 94131

COPY

April 22, 1983

Arnold J. Foss
Regional Game Manager
Montana Department of Fish,
Wildlife and Parks
8695 Huffine Lane
Bozeman, Mt 59715

Dear Arnold:

I meant to get these grazing recommendations for the Wall Creek Game Range and the Wall Creek C&H Allotment on the Beaverhead forest to you last summer but several things intervened including a move of my office from Berkeley to my home in San Francisco. I am still not fully organized to carry on with my work.

I recommend 3-pasture rest-rotation grazing systems for both ranges. I hope it is not too late to try them yet this year. Adequate 3-pasture setups can be formed from existing pastures. The experience would be invaluable for working out a satisfactory coordinated grazing plan for the two ranges.

The game range system is designed specially to benefit wildlife, big game particularly, through improvement of the yield and quality of the vegetation and by making as much of the vegetation available to wildlife as possible. I estimate that 80 to 85 percent of the annual growth on the game range would be available to wildlife and only 15 to 20 percent would be grazed by cattle with this system. The system for the forest allotment is designed to achieve multiple-use objectives.

The range will be maintained with both systems. The 2- and 4-pasture systems presently used on the forest fall short of doing this.

The grazing formulas for the 3-pasture systems I propose are shown on page A-1 of the enclosed. The allotment formula applies to both the spring and summer range areas on the allotment.

Vegetation improvement under the game range system is obtained with grazing of the stifling old growth that has accumulated in the crowns of the plants, woody and herbaccous alike. This use is most effective early in the growing season when new growth is scant and livestock are obliged to graze old residue.

To realize appreciable production of herbage from grazed plants during the year of grazing, grazing must be ended when the plants start growing rapidly. This is marked by the time flower stalks of the principal forage grass on the game range begins to show low in boot. I judge this will be in late May or early June. Grazed plants still have potential to produce near normal yield of herbage after this time. This herbage is superior in quality, green and in cured condition.

Grazing after this time progressively reduces herbage yield and weakens the plants. Last year cattle grazed on the game range from June 16 to July 15. This late use did more harm than good.

Three pastures are needed in each system. On page A-2 and on an enclosed topog map I show the general arrangement of pastures needed on both ranges for effective application of the grazing treatments and easy handling of the cattle.

There are 3 principal pastures in the setup. They are common to both ranges. They are oriented to run up and down slope from low country on the game range to high country on the allotment. They are "cross fenced" at two elevations-between the game range and the allotment and between the spring and summer ranges on the allotment. Three sets of three pastures are thus formed.

With this arrangement cattle move uphill from pasture to pasture during the first half of the season and downhill the second half. This movement is illustrated for a particular year on page A-3. Here-

1. Cattle go into game range pasture (1) at the beginning of the season.

2. When plants start growing rapidly in the pasture the cattle are moved into spring range pasture (1).

3. Summer range pasture (1) is opened to grazing when rapid growth begins at mid-elevation in the pasture. Cattle can continue to graze in spring range pasture (1).

4. Spring range pasture (2) is opened to use at seed-ripe time in the pasture. Cattle can continue to graze in pastures previously grazed on the allotment.

5. Summer range pasture (2) is opened to use at seed-ripe time in the pasture. Cattle can continue to graze in pastures previously grazed on the allotment.

6. A week or so before the end of the grazing season on the allotment, game range pasture (2) is opened to use.

7. At the end of the grazing season on the allotment all cattle are moved into game range pasture (2).

8. Cattle leave the game range in early October.

It will be some time before the 3-pasture systems can be implemented on those ranges. However usable 3-pasture setups can be fashioned from existing pastures and the systems tried immediately. I show an arrangement of pastures on page A-4. The two interior pasture boundries (dashed lines) on the game range and the one between the English George and Bobcat pastures on the spring range are hypothetical. The Wall Creek and Wall Creek Lake pastures have been combined to form summer pasture (2).

Grazing treatments A,B,C can be applied in these pastures in 6 different ways or patterns in a given year. Local conditions dictate which one of these is best to use in the first year of a grazing program or in a trial run as suggested here. The patterns are:

Pattern	Pasture		
	1	2	3
	Grazing Treatment		
1	A	B	C
2	A	C	B
3	B	C	A
4	B	A	C
5	C	A	B
6	C	B	A

On pages A-5 through A-10 I show how the cattle would be grazed in the improvised pastures with each of these patterns. From this distance pattern 6 seems to be one of the better bets for this year.

I hope you find a way of making a trail run with these systems this year. Observe how much old growth is removed on the game range with grazing under treatment A, and how much new growth is produced thereafter during the season. If the cattle run out of feed in the pasture getting the A treatment before rapid growth begins move them into the pasture getting the B treatment and let them graze there until they go on to the forest. The proper time to start grazing the spring pasture on the forest is when rapid growth begins.

I received the allotment information you referred to in your letter of April 1, 1983 from the forest last June. I do not need more for the time being.

Please let me have your reaction to these recommendations and don't hesitate to call me if you have urgent questions. My telephone number is (415) 587-3155.

Sincerely,

A. L. Hormay

August L. Hormay

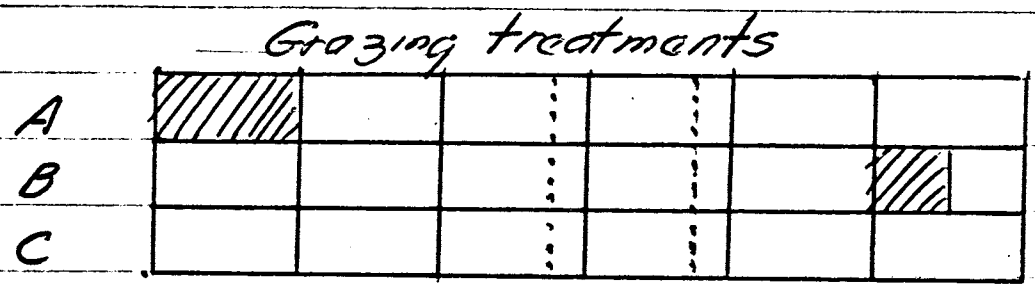
ALH/pbs
Enclosures

File copy

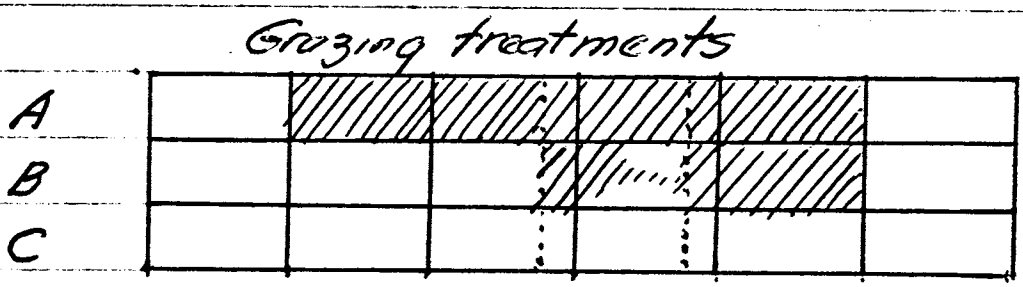
COPY

Grazing formulas
(Wall Creek Ranges, MT)

Game Range



Forest Allotment



| May | June | July | Aug. | Sept. | Oct. |

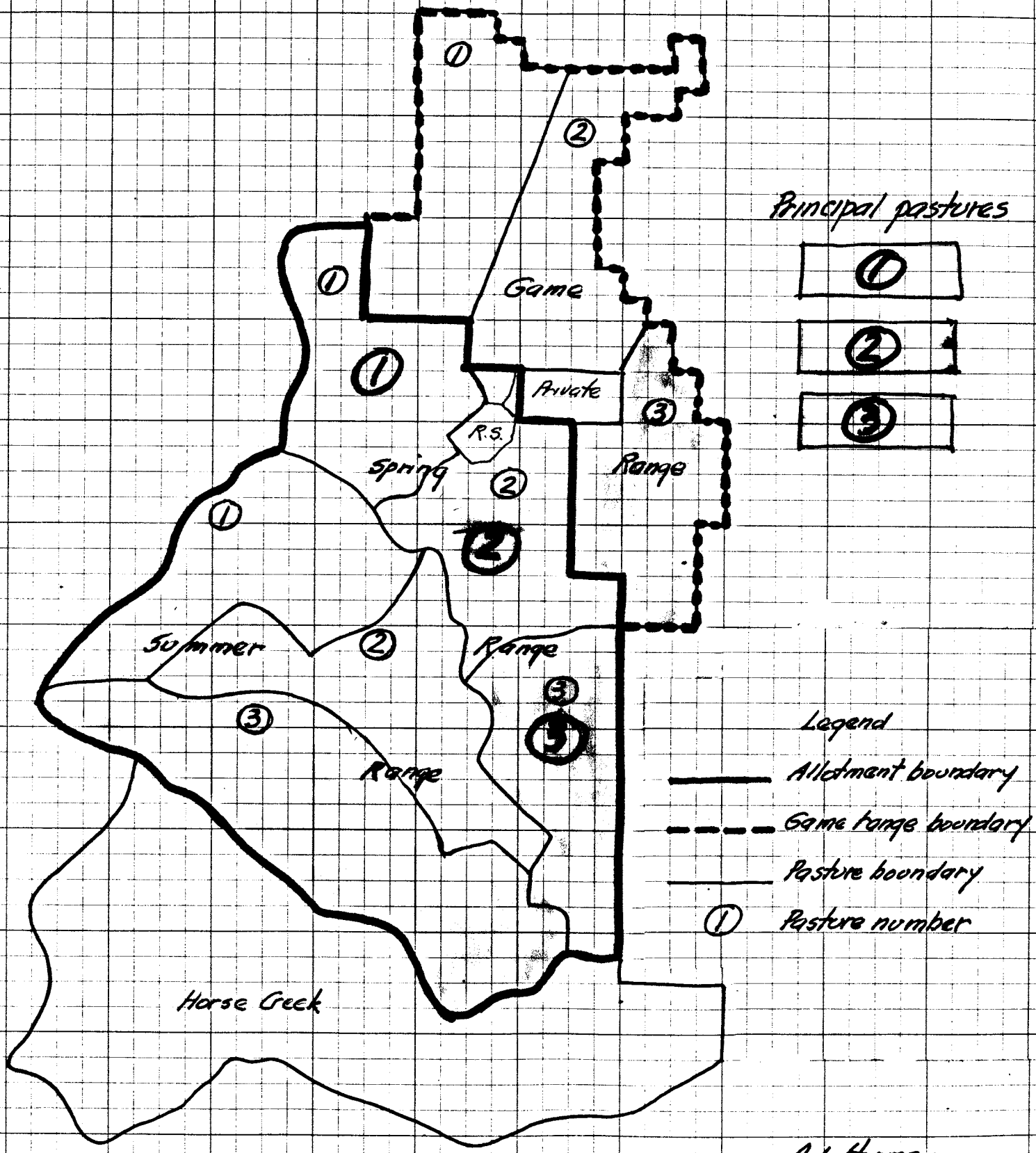
↑ Assume start of growth

↑ Assume seed ripe spring range

↑ Assume seed ripe summer range

Pasture layout, 3-pasture rest-rotation grazing system

Wall Creek Game Range, Wall Creek C&H Allotment

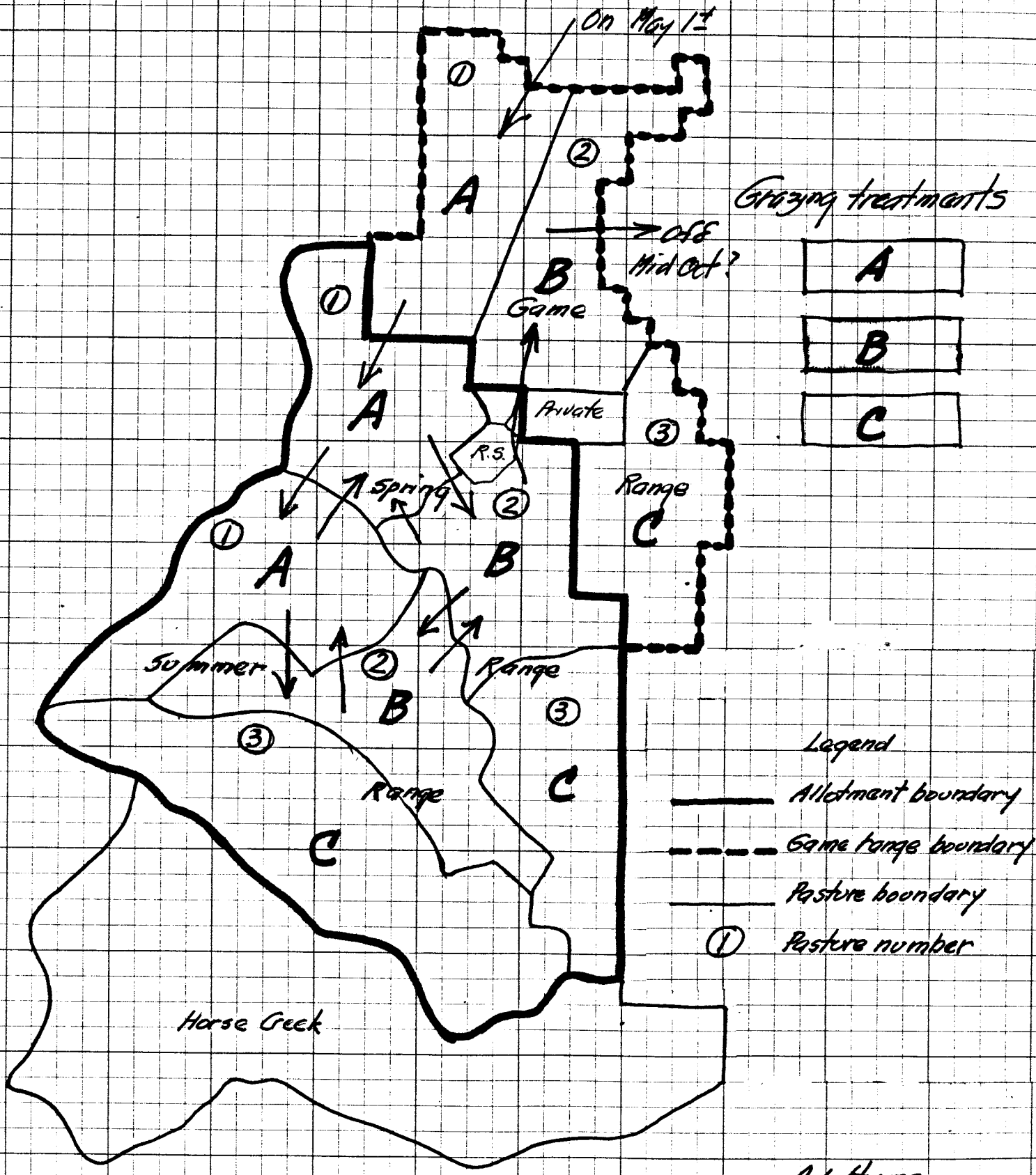


A.L. Hormay
March 14 1983

A-2

Pasture layout, 3-pasture rest-rotation grazing system

Wall Creek Game Range, Wall Creek C&H Allotment

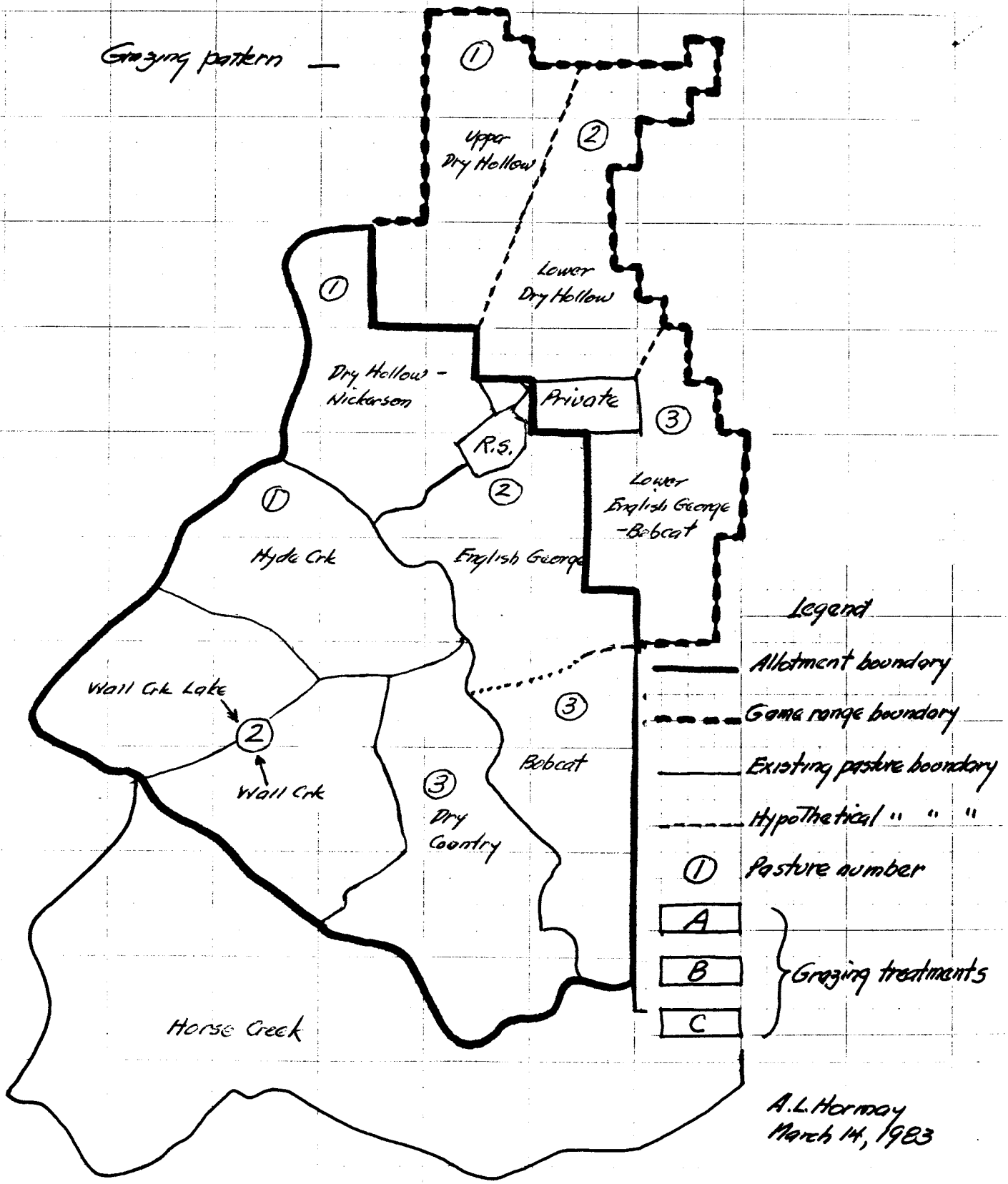


A.L. Herman
March 14 1983

A-3

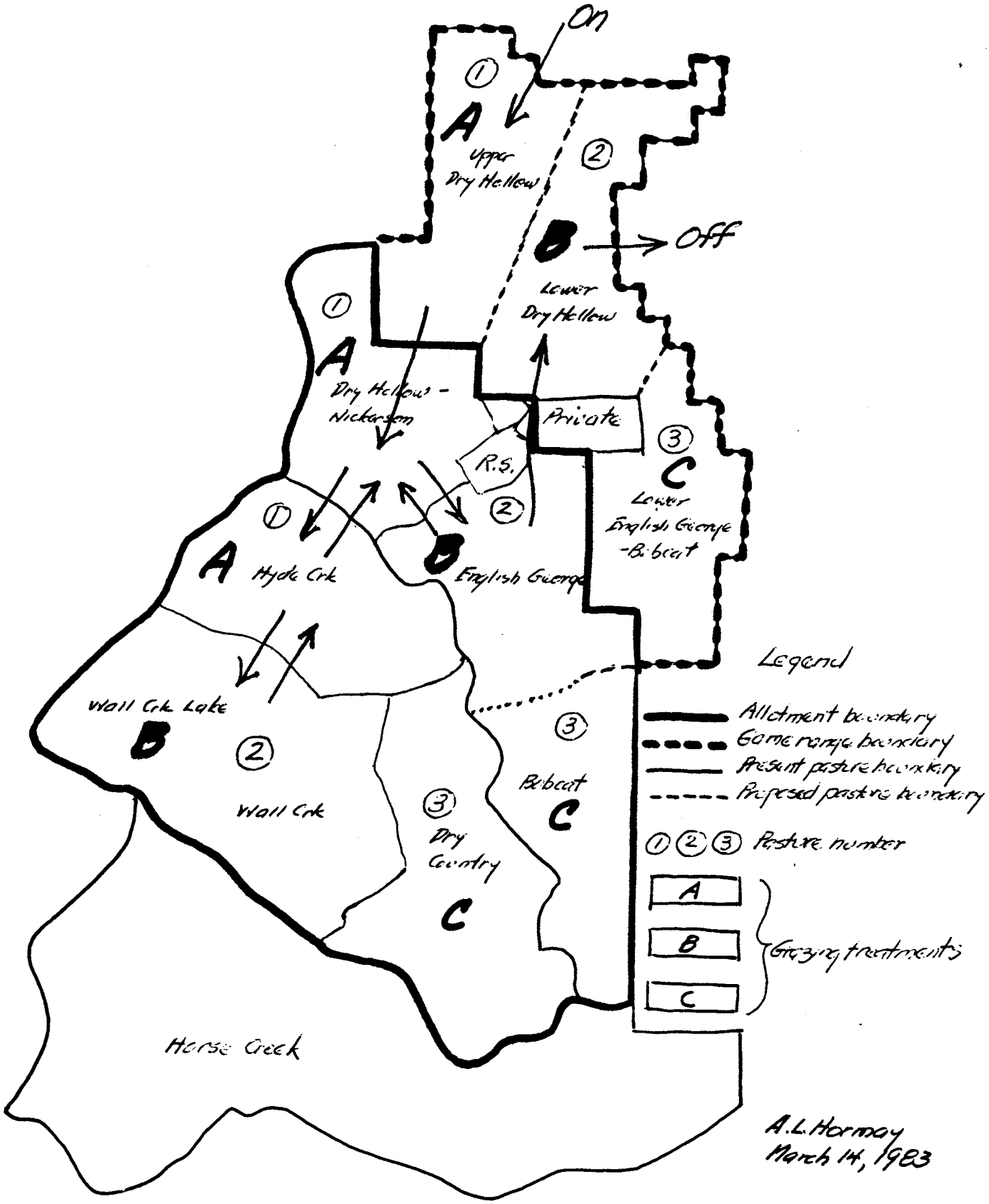
3-pasture arrangements with existing facilities

Wall Creek "Ranges"



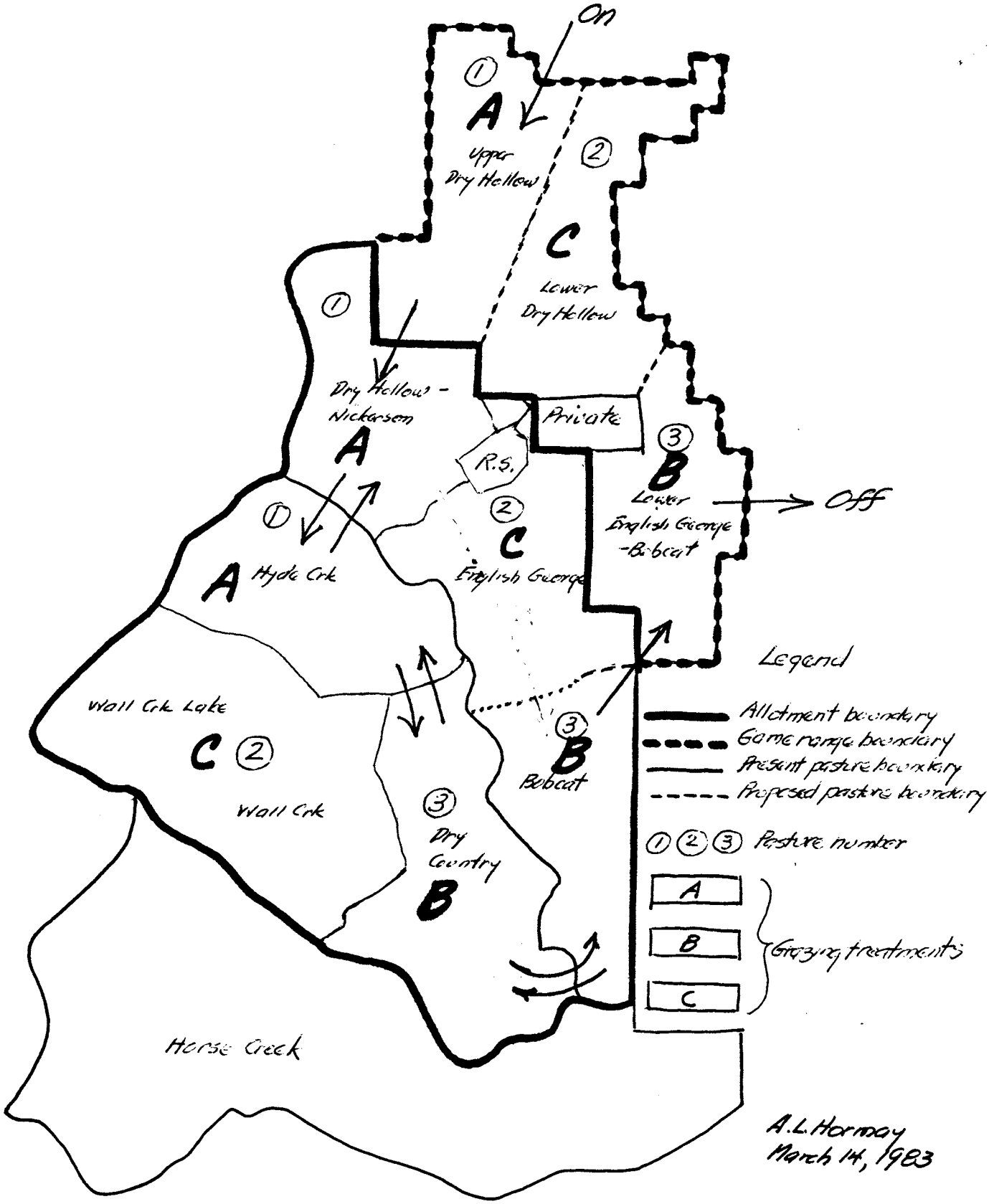
Grazing Pattern 1

Wall Creek Game Range & Wall Creek C&H Allotment



Grazing Pattern 2

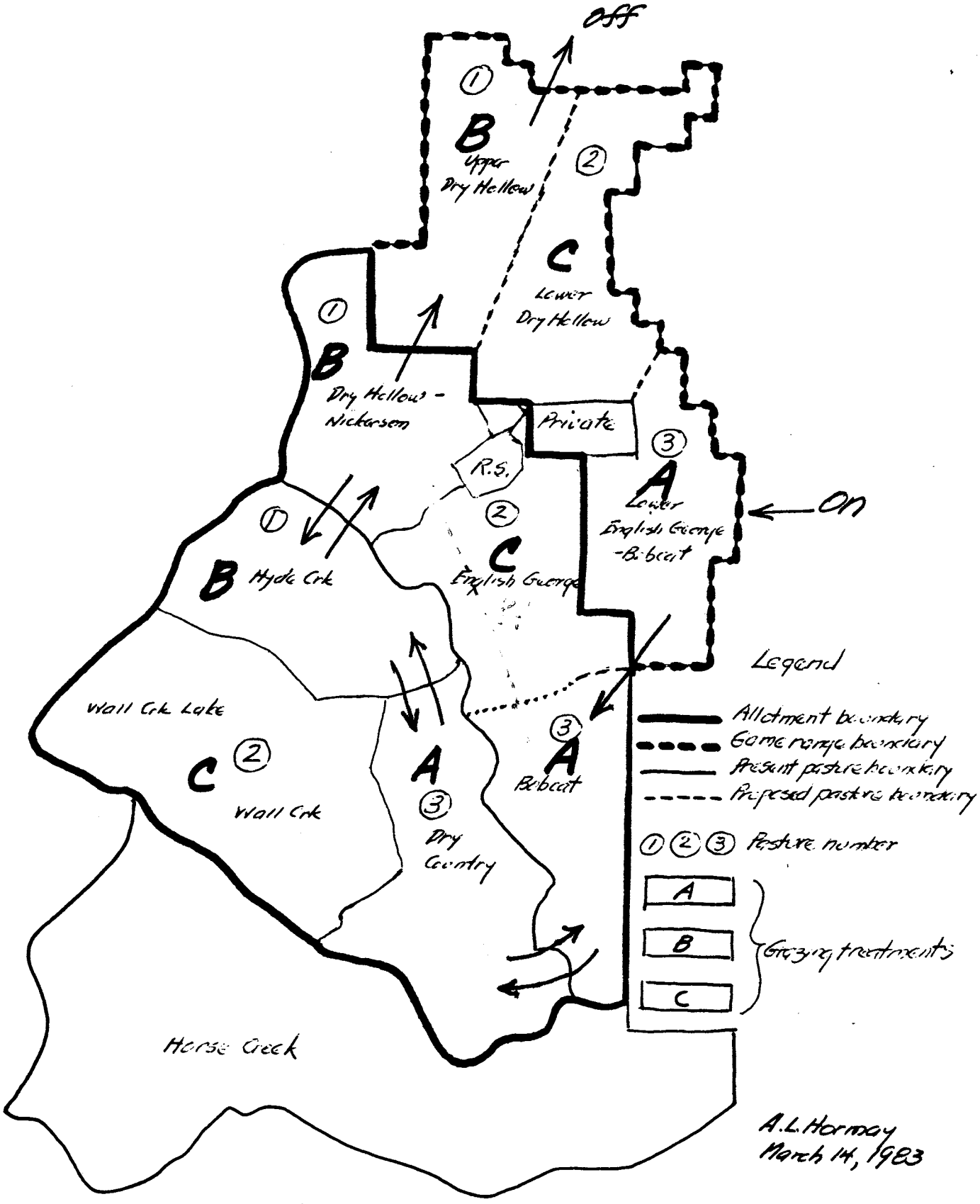
Wall Creek Game Range & Wall Creek C&H Allotment



A.L. Hormay
March 14, 1983

Grazing Pattern ___ 3

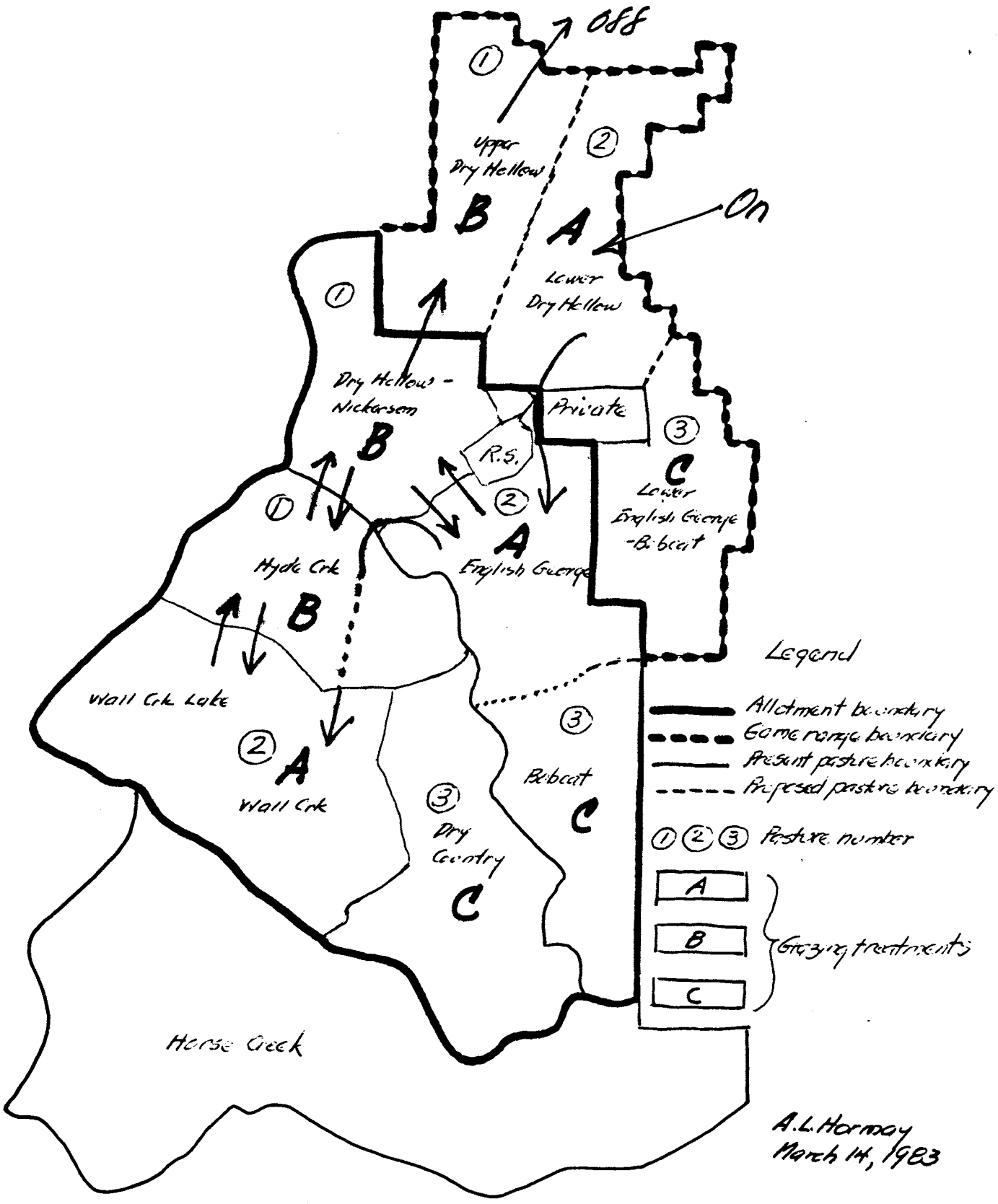
Wall Creek Game Range & Wall Creek C&H Allotment



A.L. Hormay
March 14, 1983

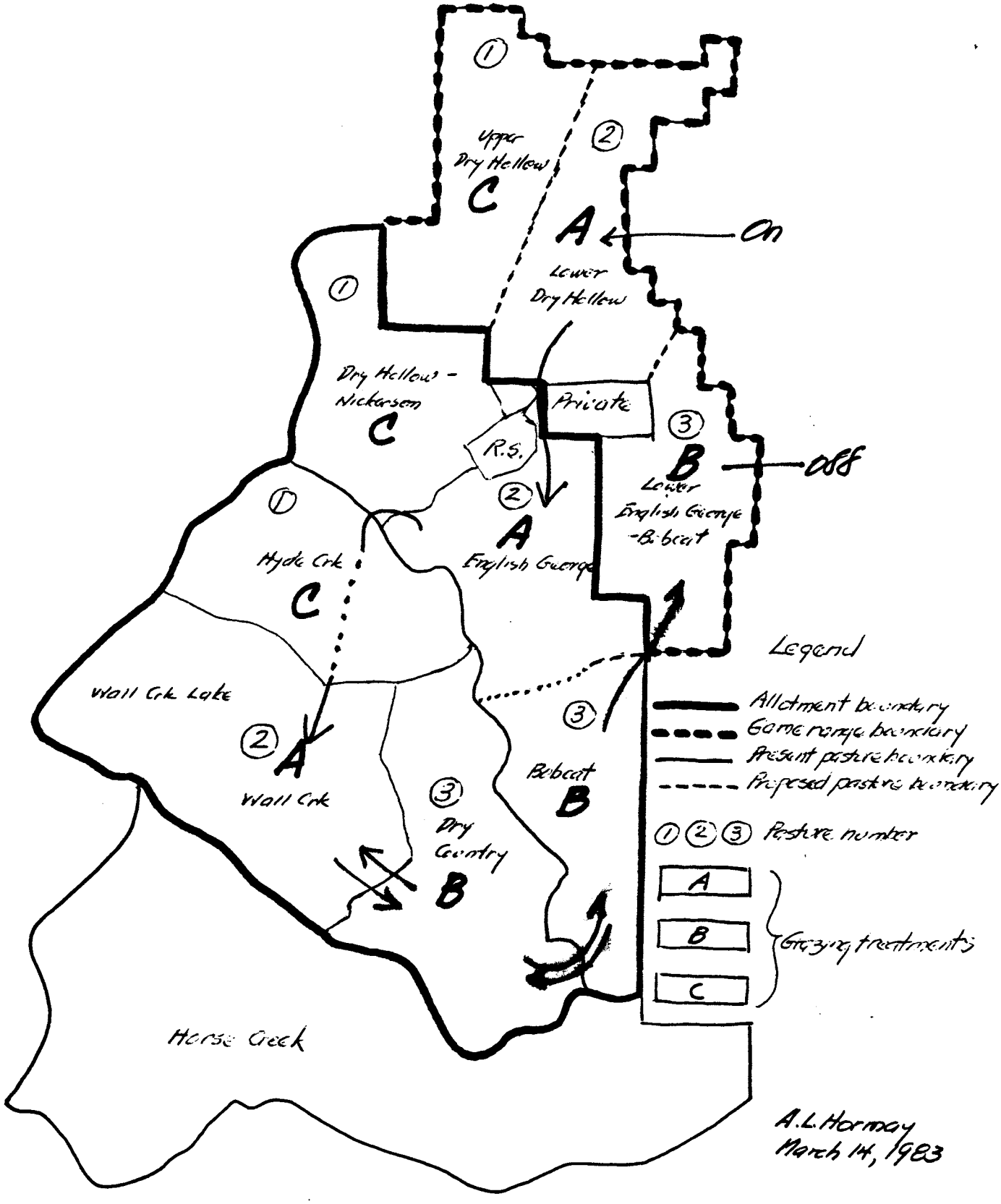
Grazing Pattern ___ 4

Wall Creek Game Range & Wall Creek C&H Allotment



Grazing Pattern — 5

Wall Creek Game Range & Wall Creek C&H Allotment



A.L. Hormay
March 14, 1983

Grazing Pattern 6

Wall Creek Game Range & Wall Creek C&H Allotment