

[circa. 1988]

Grazing History of the Tule Lake Allotment

1. Past Use

The history of stock raising in the area is similar to most other areas in the Great Basin region. Commercial stock raising began about 1890 with sheep and horses being of primary importance. Range conflict existed from the early 1900's until the middle 1930's between local livestock operators and "tramp" or transient sheep operators. The railroad stockyard in the nearby town of Madeline was one of the largest sheep shipping points in Northeastern California.

The establishment of the Forest Reserves in 1905, the Stockraising Homestead Act of 1914 and a nearby addition of South Fork Mountain to the Forest Reserve in 1924 compressed substantial grazing use onto the continually shrinking Public Domain. The reductions imposed by the Forest Service and fencing of its boundaries around 1929 meant that this range was substantially overstocked during the 1929 to 1934 priority years established by the Taylor Grazing Act. When the last applications were honored in 1938, it was realized that in order to satisfy all the priority, the Public Domain lands would have to rate from two to five acres per AUM.

2. Climate-Topography

The average precipitation is approximately 12-14 inches with 85-90% falling between November and June. The elevation varies from 4,700 to 7,100 feet.

3. Range Survey

In 1959 when the range survey was conducted, the Class I demand was 24,087 AUMs for the Tule Lake Allotment, which was a 2.4 (surface acre per animal unit month) rate of obligation. The range survey showed 4,991 AUMs available with a rating of 11.5 SA/AUM. The utilization checks made in 1958, 1959 and 1960 showed the overall utilization to be heavy or severe. The perennial grasses showed 70-90% use and the cheatgrass was used 40%. The utilization was 90% on bitterbrush. The observers stated that not only were the perennial grasses grazed, but they were grubbed into the ground.

Recommendations made at that time included: 1) moving the turnout date back from April 1 to April 15 or May 1; 2) restricting livestock movement from the low elevation ranges to the high elevation ranges until June 1 or later; 3) brush control to improve herbaceous growth.

4. Adjudication History

- a. Tule Lake Allotment was originally comprised of the present Tule Lake Allotment and the Mitchell Hill Allotment.
- b. In 1959, Class I demand was 24,087 AUMs and the range survey showed approximately 4,991 AUMs available.
- c. Instead of reducing the stocking rate by the amount indicated by the range survey, the District Manager made a reduction amounting to 2/3 of 17,860 or about 11,200 AUM's. This resulted in an allowable 11,800 AUMs being available.

- d. In 1966, the Mitchell Hill Allotment was separated from the Tule Mountain Allotment to satisfy the qualifications of the small operators that used that area. The AUMs in the Mitchell Hill Allotment were subtracted from the AUMs in the Tule Lake Allotment.
- e. When the Tule Lake AMP was developed, the District Manager insisted on further "token" decreases in AUMs in the allotment.
- f. The total AUMs available on Public Domain lands within the AMP (using 1965 range re-survey data) was 6,061 AUMs with a proper use factor of 50%. This increase was due to the Stagecoach Flat Spray Project.
- g. The present licensed use of 9,575 AUMs or about 78% of allowable use was granted in the AMP.
- h. In 1979 the operators agreed to take a voluntary 30% reduction in the allotment due to downward trend and the possibility of an imposed reduction due to the pending EIS in 1983. This voluntary reduction is still in effect. This rates out at 5.3 SA/AUM.

5. Allotment Management Plan History

The Bureau and the operators started working on an Allotment Management Plan in 1965, but agreement on the grazing system was not arrived at until 1969. The AMP was signed in 1970. A three pasture rotation-deferred grazing system was selected by the users to defer grazing on one pasture each year until seed ripe time for the key forage plants. Each pasture would be deferred for two successive years in a six year rotation cycle. Idaho Fescue is the key forage species. Bluebunch Wheatgrass and Thurbers Needlegrass are important species in some portions of the allotment. Squirreltail is an important perennial grass on the flat, stony uplands north and east of Tule Mountain where there has been rather severe site deterioration. (See Reference #1)

In 1975, the AMP was revised after completing a full six year cycle. Both the Bureau and the operators felt this was necessary due to the downward trend indicated by the phototrend plots. A three pasture rest-rotation grazing system was implemented to allow for plant vigor, seed production, seed trampling and seedling establishment of key forage plant species. Within the three year rotation cycle, each pasture would be grazed early one year, rested until seed ripe the next, and rested completely the last year for seedling establishment. (See Reference #2) This system was tried for approximately two to three years (records are not clear), during which time the system was found to have problems. These problems were as follows: 1) Pasture II wasn't ready for early use, 2) Pasture III didn't have water every year and they couldn't use it late, and 3) when they did use Pasture I late, the cattle keggered up on the north end wanting to go home.

In approximately 1979, the grazing system was changed to the existing deferred rotation system, which addressed their problems with the rest-rotation system. Pasture I and Pasture III are used early on alternate years. Pasture II is used after seed ripe every year. Additionally, the operators took a voluntary 30% reduction in use at this time to try and stop the downward trend. (See Reference #3)

The adjudicated sheep use and the one trailing permit in Pasture II and Pasture III have continued to be a source of conflict with the cattle operators. It is the historical story of creaming the range, staying too long and wiring up the bottom strand of wire on the fences.

The Bitterbrush and Mountain Mahogany stands have continued to be a major concern of wildlife interests as the stands are old age classes or decadent and have very little recruitment. Aspen recruitment is also low. The allotment provides mainly summer and transitory range for the deer and antelope herds in this area.

** Please see the attached material showing the grazing formula.*

Planning Background

Several years ago BLM Director Burford asked all BLM Districts to undertake a Riparian Management Initiative. Each District was asked to establish a riparian demonstration area. The Alturas Resource Area is the Riparian Demonstration Area for the Susanville District. The intent of the Riparian Demonstration Areas is to provide areas for evaluating riparian management practices and for promoting public awareness and participation in riparian management.

As a result of our designation as a demonstration area, a steering committee was formed by our Area Manager comprised of representatives of various user groups to advise us on the direction and thrust of the Riparian Initiative and to foster public awareness and participation in the initiative.

Another new concept being developed as a result of this riparian thrust is Integrated Resource Management Planning. We realized that you cannot isolate riparian systems from the rest of the watershed. The entire watershed, uplands to creek bottom must be managed as a unit. We also realized that one activity plan for an entire watershed would be more effective than trying to implement separate activity plans (watershed, grazing, wildlife, etc.). The integrated plan is an activity level plan considering and managing all resources in a common geographical area. It will specify on the ground projects to resolve issues and provide sound coordinated management for all resources.

The steering committee is an active participant in the planning process and provides the vehicle for interest group representatives, other public agencies, individuals and users to be involved in the coordination, cooperation and consultation processes needed for proper planning and management of the resources.

The Tule Lake Allotment has been chosen as the first geographic area to try this new planning process. The final plan will serve as the Allotment Management Plan, Habitat Management Plan, and Best Management Practices Plan.

Tule Lake Allotment is located east of Highway 395 between Likely and Madeline. It encompasses 50,000 acres of public lands and 2,000 acres of privately owned property. Most of the spring sources and the entire length of Cedar Creek is privately owned. We have a unique opportunity here because the private land owners along Cedar Creek are anxious to plan and manage these riparian areas in conjunction with the public uplands to enhance the riparian system and watershed as a whole.

The riparian systems in Tule Lake Allotment are severely degraded. It is also experiencing a decline in forage for cattle and habitat and browse for wildlife in the uplands due to the encroachment of juniper and big sage. These seem to be our main issues to be resolved with the plan.

Our action plan is still in the preliminary stages, but we have some ideas about treatment options based on discussions with the permittees and with steering committee members. We all recognize the need to get cattle off of Cedar Creek and the riparian systems. In order to accomplish this, the uplands must be treated to replace lost forage. Our best areas for vegetative treatment and forage production are in Pasture II.

Options for Pasture II:

1. Fence and manage Cedar Creek as a riparian pasture.
2. Look at dividing the area north of Cedar Creek into 2 pastures to allow use in this area while vegetation treatments are being completed and to give us 2 upland pastures.
3. Look for water and spring development.
4. Consider prescribe burning in the uplands especially where small junipers are in the big sage stand.
5. Consider spraying in the uplands, where mahogany stands need to be protected from fire for diversity and wildlife.

We are limited in Pasture I due to the Wilderness Study Area that comprises a major portion of this Pasture.

Options for Pasture I:

1. The WSA status will preclude much work in this pasture until a Congressional decision is made.
2. Juniper cutting around non-WSA springs and areas of deeper soils.
3. Consider prescribe burning in the WSA with control lines outside of the WSA boundaries.

Options for Pasture III:

1. Consider splitting this pasture in half and manage Desert Flat as an early riparian pasture.
2. The upland portion of the pasture needs water development.
3. Consider prescribe burning in the uplands to release herbaceous growth.
4. Consider cutting junipers around riparian areas.



UNITED STATES
DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
BUREAU OF LAND MANAGEMENT
HORMAY REST ROTATION MEETING

IN REPLY REFER TO:

*Tule Lake Allot - Historical
Filed in Allot. File
6/13/69 J.B.*

July 8, 1969

On July 2, 1969, a meeting was held in Alturas at the Veterans Hall. The following people were in attendance:

Somer Beeson
Bill Flournoy
Don Flournoy
Kenneth Van Loan
Duane McGarva
Kenneth McGarva

Tulelake Allotment
Tulelake Allotment
Tulelake Allotment
Tulelake Allotment
Tulelake Allotment
Tulelake Allotment

John Weber
Herman Weber
Jack Rice
Erwin Swanson

North Tableland Allotment
North Tableland Allotment
North Tableland Allotment
North Tableland Allotment

Jack Swickert
Larry Hansen

Willow Creek Unit
Willow Creek Unit

Andy Knudson
Haskell Parks

Silva Flat Allotment
Silva Flat Allotment

Jim Marr

Advisory Board Representative

Rex J. Morgan
Roger Burwell
Bill LeBarron
Bob Schulenburg
Bill Larramendy
Arnold Bullock

District Manager, BLM, Susanville
BLM, Susanville
BLM, Susanville
BLM, Susanville
BLM, Susanville
BLM, Susanville

Gus Hormay

Instructor, BLM, Berkeley

There were two objectives to be accomplished by this meeting. The more important one, and the primary reason for Mr. Hormay's participation, was to examine the North Tableland and the Tule Mountain Allotments and to present his findings to the respective licensees. The second objective was to acquaint the range users and to reacquaint the BLM personnel with the principals of rest rotation.

The first objective was only partially accomplished. There was not sufficient time spent in the field for Mr. Hormay to examine the allotments adequately

to present concrete recommendations. In addition, there was not time available to discuss with the range users their normal livestock operation.

However, based upon the topograph and vegetation that was seen in the Tule Mountain Allotment, Mr. Hormay suggested a six pasture rest rotation. This would involve a three pasture system on the spring range and a three pasture system on the summer range.

Based upon Mr. Hormay's limited observations in the North Tableland, he suggested a five pasture grazing system; a classic three pasture rest rotation on the lower Tableland and a two pasture rest rotation on the upper Tableland. The fences for the pastures on the lower Tableland would be constructed in an east-west direction.

The range users in the two allotments did not have an opportunity to comment on Mr. Hormay's suggestions.

The second objective of the meeting was thoroughly accomplished. The range users present are now acquainted with some of the basic principals of rest rotation. However, it is strongly suggested that Mr. Hormay return to the District to present his two day session on rest rotation to the ranchers. There should be a minimum of two meetings, one in Alturas, and one in Susanville. A third one in Cedarville would be very desirable. These sessions should be this winter or early next spring.


William Larramendy
Area Manager

Problems with our Current Monitoring System

The Resource Area is currently expending 4-6 workmonths a year to conduct pace-frequency trend transects on our "I" and "M" category allotments. This means \$10,000 to \$15,000 a year.

To date we have not used the pace-frequency trend monitoring method for a long enough time period to judge its effectiveness, but we see some problems with the data collected thus far.

We are afraid that the data is not giving us the information we need to make sound management decisions for the following reasons:

1. There are errors in reading the transects. The errors are the result of several factors:
 - a. Mistakenly crossing range site boundaries.
 - b. Mistaken species identification.
 - c. Inability to read transects at same time each year or grazing cycle.
 - d. Outside factors that we may not be aware of at this time.
2. We're monitoring small, slow changes.
3. It is difficult to extrapolate the small sample set to large areas (Pastures of several thousand acres).
4. It is difficult to relate the pace-frequency trend data to Activity Plan and Resource Management Goals. Many times the plan goals are compatible with the parameters that are being measured by the pace-frequency monitoring method.

ATTACHMENT

Reference # 1

GRAZING FORMULA

TREATMENT	JAN.	FEB.	MAR.	APR.	MAY	JUNE	JULY	AUG.	SEP.	OCT.	NOV.	DEC.
40 Days Use												
A. Spring Grazing	5/1 - 6/10											
50 Days Use												
B. Spring - Summer	6/11 - 7/31											
60 Days Use												
C. Summer - Fall	8/1 - 9/30											
Gates are opened and livestock allowed one week to drift into subsequent pasture.												

YEARLY GRAZING SCHEDULE

	MANAGEMENT UNIT	JAN.	FEB.	MAR.	APR.	MAY	JUNE	JULY	AUG.	SEP.	OCT.	NOV.	DEC.
First Year 1971	Pasture III												
	Pasture II												
	Pasture I												
Second Year 1972	Pasture III												
	Pasture II												
	Pasture I												
Third Year 1973	Pasture II												
	Pasture I												
	Pasture III												
Fourth Year 1974	Pasture II												
	Pasture I												
	Pasture III												
Fifth Year 1975	Pasture I												
	Pasture III												
	Pasture II												
Sixth Year 1976	Pasture I												
	Pasture III												
	Pasture II												

GRAZING FORMULA

TREATMENT	JAN.	FEB.	MAR.	APR.	MAY	JUNE	JULY	AUG.	SEP.	OCT.	NOV.	DEC.	
Year													
1st A							Livestock Production						
2nd B		Rest until seed ripe						Livestock Prod. seed trampling					
3rd C	Rest for seedling establishment, vigor and litter accumulation												
One cycle													

YEARLY GRAZING SCHEDULE

MANAGEMENT UNIT	JAN.	FEB.	MAR.	APR.	MAY	JUNE	JULY	AUG.	SEP.	OCT.	NOV.	DEC.
First Year 1976	Pasture 1				rest	until	seed	ripe	/	/	/	/
	2				/	/	/	/	/	/	/	/
	3				rest							
Second Year 1977	Pasture 1				rest							
	2				rest	until	seed	ripe	/	/	/	/
	3				/	/	/	/	/	/	/	/
Third Year 1978	Pasture 1				/	/	/	/	/	/	/	/
	2				rest							
	3				rest	until	seed	ripe	/	/	/	/
Fourth Year 1979	Pasture 1				rest	until	seed	ripe	/	/	/	/
	2				/	/	/	/	/	/	/	/
	3				rest							
Fifth Year 1980	Pasture 1				rest							
	2				rest	until	seed	ripe	/	/	/	/
	3				/	/	/	/	/	/	/	/
Sixth Year 1981	Pasture 1				/	/	/	/	/	/	/	/
	2				rest							
	3				rest	until	seed	ripe	/	/	/	/

GRAZING FORMULA

Tulelake #0310 04-02-86

TREATMENT	JAN.	FEB.	MAR.	APR.	MAY	JUNE	JULY	AUG.	SEP.	OCT.	NOV.	DEC.
A: 05-01 to 07-31					█	█	█					
B: 08-01 to 09-30								█	█			
C: REST					REST							

---YEARLY GRAZING SCHEDULE

MANAGEMENT UNIT		JAN.	FEB.	MAR.	APR.	MAY	JUNE	JULY	AUG.	SEP.	OCT.	NOV.	DEC.
First Year 1986, 1992	Pasture 1					REST							
	2								█	█			
	3					█	█	█					
Second Year 1987, 1993	Pasture 1					█	█	█					
	2								█	█			
	3					REST							
Third Year 1988, 1994	Pasture 1					REST							
	2								█	█			
	3					█	█	█					
Fourth Year 1989, 1995	Pasture 1					█	█	█					
	2								█	█			
	3					REST							
Fifth Year 1990, 1996	Pasture 1					REST							
	2								█	█			
	3					█	█	█					
Sixth Year 1991, 1997	Pasture 1					█	█	█					
	2								█	█			
	3					REST							

Vegetation Type Conversion*

<u>Project</u>	<u>Year</u>	<u>Acres</u>	<u>Remarks</u>
1. Tule Mountain Wildfire and Seed	1957	3,500	Unsuccessful
2. Stagecoach Flat Spray	1962	5,000	90%+ Successful

* See Locations on attached Vegetation Map

TRAIL

RAILROAD

U.S. INTERSTATE HIGHWAY

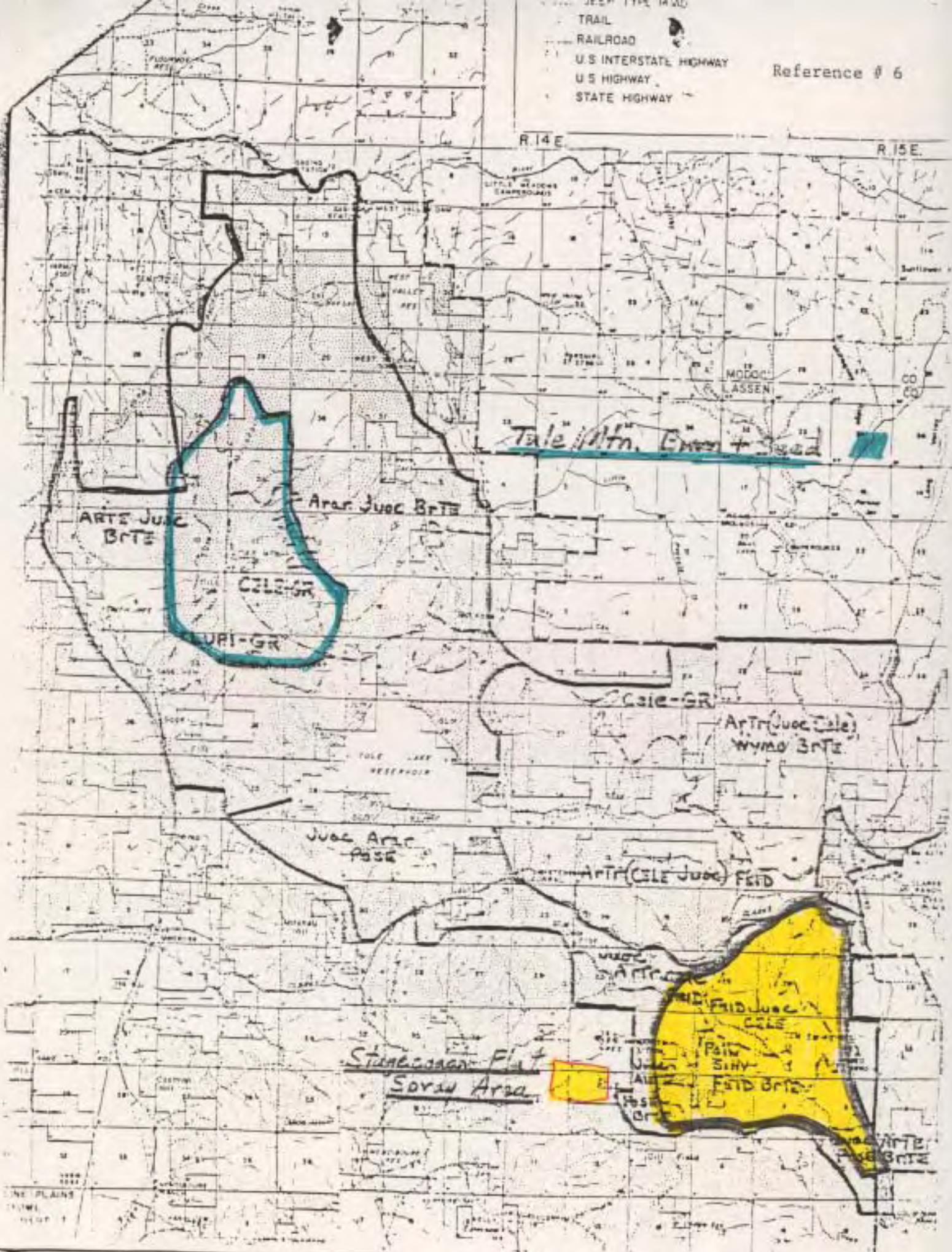
U.S. HIGHWAY

STATE HIGHWAY

Reference # 6

R. 14 E.

R. 15 E.



ARTES JUNC
BRTE

Artes Junc Brte

CALE-GR

JUNI-GR

Tale Mtn. Basin + Seed

Cale-GR

Artes (Junc Cale)
WYMO BRTE

Junc Area
PASS

Artes (CALE Junc) FEID

Staircase Flat
Sandy Area

FEID Junc
CALE

FEID BRTE

WHITE
PASS BRTE

Tule Lake Grazing Statistics (1987)

<u>Operator</u>	<u>Preference</u>	<u>Suspended AUMs</u>	<u>Active AUMs</u>	<u>Actual Use</u>	<u>Non-Use</u>
R. C. Roberts	868	468	400	223	177
Van Loan Ranch	3,274	1,766	1,508	1,050	458
Likely Land and Livestock, Inc.	7,378	4,008	3,370	2,165	1,205
McGarva Ranch	1,910	1,028	882	537	345
Roy Ferry & Sons	2,664	1,593	1,071	466	605
Jack Estill	3,694	2,000	1,694	980	713
Espil Sheep Co. ¹	350		350	283	67
Wes Cook ²				13	

¹ Only sheep operator with adjudicated AUMs in the allotment.

² Two day sheep trailing permit.

1958 Condition Transects

<u>Transect No.</u>	<u>Location</u>	<u>Year Established</u>	<u>Veg. Score</u>	<u>Rtg.</u>	<u>Soil Score</u>	<u>Rtg.</u>	<u>Combined Score</u>	<u>Rtg.</u>
C-2-225	W. of Clarks Valley	1958	17	Fair	27	Excl.	44	Good
226	Tule Mountain	1958	22	Fair	24	Excl.	46	Good
227	Stagecoach Flat	1958	21	Fair	27	Excl.	48	Good
236	Olsen Peak	1958	15	Poor	15	Good	36	Fair
259	N. of Clarks Valley	1959	17	Fair	25	Excl.	42	Good

TABLE II (cont Innd) Present Range Condition, Acreage, and Livestock Grazing Use

Allotment	Unsurveyed					Woodland Acres	BEM Acres	Total Acres	C/N/I Category	No. Users	No. Livestock	Season of Use	Active ADMs
	MA	BIM Acreage	Excellent	Good	Fair								
Cold Springs	10	774	84	12,823	3,681	0	17,678	18,839	I	1	468 C	05/01 - 10/15	2,157
Cramer	10	645					645	987	C	1	9 C	04/16 - 08/15	36
Harr	10	73					73	219	C	1	1 C	04/16 - 08/15	4
Grabtree	10	360					360	660	C	1	27 C	05/01 - 10/15	15
South McDonald	10	1,059	1,428	4,531	4,230	12	11,260	11,990	I	2	255 C	04/16 - 10/30	1,616
McDonald Mountain	10	466	0	2,423	7,196	0	12,276	14,126	I	1	401 C	04/16 - 10/30	2,608
Coffin	10	586	0	0	711	0	1,297	2,217	C	1	10 C	04/16 - 10/30	70
Brockman	10	0	0	70	484	0	987	5,880	C	1	20 C	04/16 - 10/30	130
Hall Field	10	0	0	1,257	0	0	1,257	2,510	M	1	59 C	04/16 - 09/15	192
Dry Cow	10	0	0	5,203	0	0	5,203	6,338	I	1	216 C	05/16 - 10/20	1,103
Mitchell Hill	10	0	0	2,672	3,103	0	7,575	8,041	I	4	179 C	04/16 - 09/15	867
July Lake	10	542	1,914	17,938	20,043	268	48,890	59,783	I	6	1,925 C	05/01 - 09/30	9,054
Deep Canyon	10	1,570	0	370	63	0	2,398	4,812	C	1	45 C	04/16 - 09/15	225
Warm Springs	10	0	0	606	341	0	1,103	4,114	M	1	76 C	04/16 - 08/15	128
Nelson Corral	10	2,556	0	4,469	5,486	0	13,367	16,881	M	1	542 C	05/16 - 09/20	2,256
South Fork	10	0	0	422	866	0	3,804	5,649	M	1	261 C	05/01 - 09/15	1,175
North Ash Valley	10	0	4,104	7,712	1,826	0	17,181	25,577	I	2	571 C	04/16 - 09/30	2,505
South Ash Valley	10	0	2,481	2,057	3,746	0	16,824	21,557	I	1	406 C	05/15 - 09/15	1,624
Anderson	10	0	0	696	376	0	875	1,465	I	1	17 C	04/16 - 09/30	90
Wing	10	0	0	1,681	52	0	2,161	6,154	C	1	1,000 S	05/16 - 10/25	372
Dry Valley	10	0	0	871	377	0	2,300	5,447	C	1	113 C	04/16 - 09/30	273
Said Valley	10	0	23	406	25	0	826	1,881	I	1	130 C	08/25 - 09/06	60
Summit/Williams	10	0	112	30	735	0	1,835	7,826	C	1	28 C	05/01 - 09/30	140
Clarks Valley	10	115					115	915	C	1	6 C	05/01 - 09/30	30
Owl Creek	11	240					240	240			- N O T	L I C E N S E D	0
Milk Creek	11	120					120	120			- N O T	L I C E N S E D	0
Granger	11	1,300					1,300	1,300	C	1	20 C	04/15 - 05/30	30
Cedar Creek	11	460					460	460			- N O T	L I C E N S E D	0
McCulley	11	1,000					1,000	1,000	C	1	10 C	05/01 - 06/30	20
Soldier Creek	11	40					40	40			- N O T	L I C E N S E D	0
Mill Creek	11	40					40	40			- N O T	L I C E N S E D	0
Goose Creek	11	40					40	40	C	1	2 C	05/01 - 09/30	10
Buck Mountain	11	120					120	120	C	1	10 H	04/01 - 10/31	19
Upper Lake	11	0	0	0	0	720	720	720	C	1	50 C	05/01 - 07/30	168
											9 C	08/01 - 09/30	