

East-West French Allotment

Helena NE Montana  
Helena Range District

Location T14N R1E

Sections

16	15	14	
21	22	23	24

Names on allotment

Elk Ridge Spring

Madaw Spring

Pasture BC Spring

Montana

E W French (Sieben Livestock Co)  
Chase Hibbard

3-Pasture System

Photographs

1981 first

1982

1984

1988

Start grazing in East Pasture,  
Pasture No 3, in 1984

E W French

First photos in 1981?

Fence lines tagged fall of  
1982 before Nov 16

Start grazing in East  
Pasture # 3 1984

East-West French C&H  
Allotment Management Plan

Prepared By: \_\_\_\_\_  
Lois Olsen, Range Conservationist Date

Reviewed With: \_\_\_\_\_  
Sieben Livestock Company Permittee Date

Reviewed By: \_\_\_\_\_  
Maurice W. Anding, District Ranger Date

Approved By: \_\_\_\_\_  
Robert S. Gibson, Forest Supervisor Date

## I. Identification

The East-West French Cattle and Horse Allotment is located in T13N, R1E, northeast of Helena, Montana. The allotment covers approximately 4340 acres, 3060 acres of which are National Forest land and 1280 acres which are owned by Sieben Livestock Company, the permittee. For precise boundary locations, see Appendix A.

## 2. Description of allotment-character, resources and uses, objectives

### II. Objectives of grazing plan

The objectives of this management plan are to:

- 1) Manage the allotment under a three pasture rest rotation system.
- ✓ 2) Maintain good vegetative and soil conditions and increase fair conditions to good.
- 3) Fully utilize the available forage for livestock by increasing animal unit months.
- 4) Balance distribution throughout the allotment through fencing and water developments.

### III. Action

A.M. (Animal Month) = 1.00 AU

AUM (Animal Unit Month) = 1.32 AU

#### A. Present Obligation

Sieben Livestock Company is presently permitted 265 cow/calf pair for a 65 day season between 7/1 and 9/30. This consists of a private land permit for 115 pair, or 249 A.M.'s -- 329 AUM's and a term permit for 150 pair, or 325 A.M.'s -- 429 AUM's. The allotment is grazed under a season long system, alternating turnout dates between 7/1 and 7/21 every other year.

3. Grazing Plan

B. Proposed Grazing System and Permitted Grazing Use

The estimated capacity of this allotment, utilizing 70% of the available livestock forage, is 1049 AUM's. The estimated capacity of the National Forest is 594 AUM's, the private is 455 AUM's.

A three pasture rest rotation system will be implemented. Livestock numbers will remain the same while the grazing season will be extended to 6/21 through 9/20. Under the rest rotation system, two pastures will be used each year while one is rested. The gate between the two use pastures will remain open after seed ripe time, allowing the cattle to move between the two pastures.

90 days  
(3 months)

The grazing sequence is as follows:

	(West) Pasture A	(Middle) Pasture B	(East) Pasture C
Year 1	C Rest	B Seed Ripe	A Early
Year 2	B Seed Ripe	A Early	C Rest
Year 3	A Early	C Rest	B Seed Ripe

Repeat Sequence

Seed ripe should occur by early to mid-August in an "average" year.

C. Range Improvements

The existing improvements consist of one jackleg drift fence located in the NW $\frac{1}{4}$  Sec. 24, T13N, R1E. It is approximately  $\frac{1}{2}$  mile long and the improvement number is 00085.

The following improvements are necessary to implement the system:

Imp. Name	Location	Year to be Constructed	Length or Description	Maintenance Responsibility
Pasture AB fence	W $\frac{1}{2}$ Sec. 22 W $\frac{1}{2}$ Sec. 16 T13N, R1E	1983	2 $\frac{1}{4}$ miles barbed wire, steel post	Sieben Livestock
Pasture BC fence	W $\frac{1}{2}$ Sec. 14 E $\frac{1}{2}$ Sec. 22 T13N, R1E	1983	2 $\frac{1}{4}$ miles barbed wire, steel post	Sieben Livestock
Section 16 Spring	SE $\frac{1}{4}$ Sec. 16 T13N, R1E	As Needed	redwood tank	Sieben Livestock
Meadow Spring	SE $\frac{1}{4}$ Sec. 22 T13N, R1E	As Needed	redwood tank	Sieben Livestock
Elk Ridge Spring	NE $\frac{1}{4}$ Sec. 23 T13N, R1E	As Needed	redwood tank	Sieben Livestock

Other improvements may be necessary in the future.

IV. Monitoring

A. Allotment Examination

*Plots (establish first year of RR)*

The allotment should be analyzed five years after the system is implemented to determine the effect of the system. The carrying capacity will be reassessed at that time.

*(No need)*

*survey?*

B. Utilization - Production

The carrying capacity has been calculated on 70% weight use of the available livestock forage. Rest rotation grazing concentrates grazing use on two units each year, allowing one-third of the area complete rest one year out of three. Traditional utilization standards do not apply to this allotment.

*Form 4*

C. Trend - Benchmarks

There are no permanent benchmarks on the allotment. Five years after implementation of the system, paced transects and photo points should be established at key areas in each pasture to measure long term condition and trend. See range analysis evaluation for suggested key area locations.

*1st year*

D. General Administration

Permittee judgement will be relied on to determine when gates between pastures should be opened. In the early years of implementation gates may have to be opened earlier than desirable due to on-the-ground conditions. The system will be flexible to allow for those occurrences. As stated earlier, the gate between the use pastures will be left open to allow unrestricted cattle movement. Cattle may or may not have to be physically moved between pastures.

*seed ripe time*

*?  
Until results indicate need to confine grazing to 1 pasture*

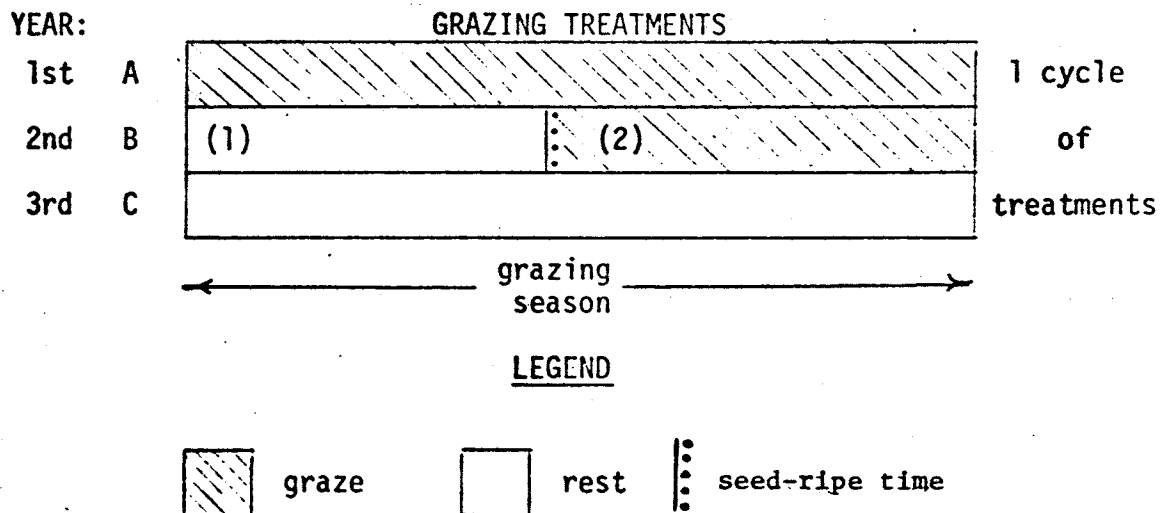
E. Appendix

- A. Vegetative Type Map
- B. Condition and Trend Map
- C. Improvements and Key Area Map

Plant requirements can be met adequately only when the plant is rested from use. Rest-rotation grazing systems are formulated objectively to provide the amount of rest needed. The amounts for various requirements have been worked out over a long period of time by researchers and practitioners.

The minimum amount of rest recommended for restoring plant vigor in plants on dry (upland) sites, is two growing seasons through completion of food storage, and for seedling establishment one full year. Near complete defoliation must be assumed in determining the amount of rest for vigor because some plants, on heavy concentration areas, are invariably grazed this way.

Resting should be started immediately after, but one year of grazing during the critical green period so as not to compound the harmful effects of grazing. The rest needed for vigor, seed production and seedling establishment can be obtained in two years. This is shown in the following diagram of grazing and resting that would be applied on an area over time.





Pasture grazing schedule

Year of grazing	Pasture		
	1	2	3
	Grazing treatments		
First	A	B	C
Second	B	C	A
Third	C	A	B
Fourth	A	B	C

other resource values and at the same time improve and maintain the vegetation and soil fertility. Maintenance and improvement of the resource is accomplished almost entirely by timely resting of the range from use. By dividing the range into pastures it is possible to graze a given number of livestock on the range each year.

#### Purpose of Resting

A pasture or unit of range is rested from use after a season of grazing to:

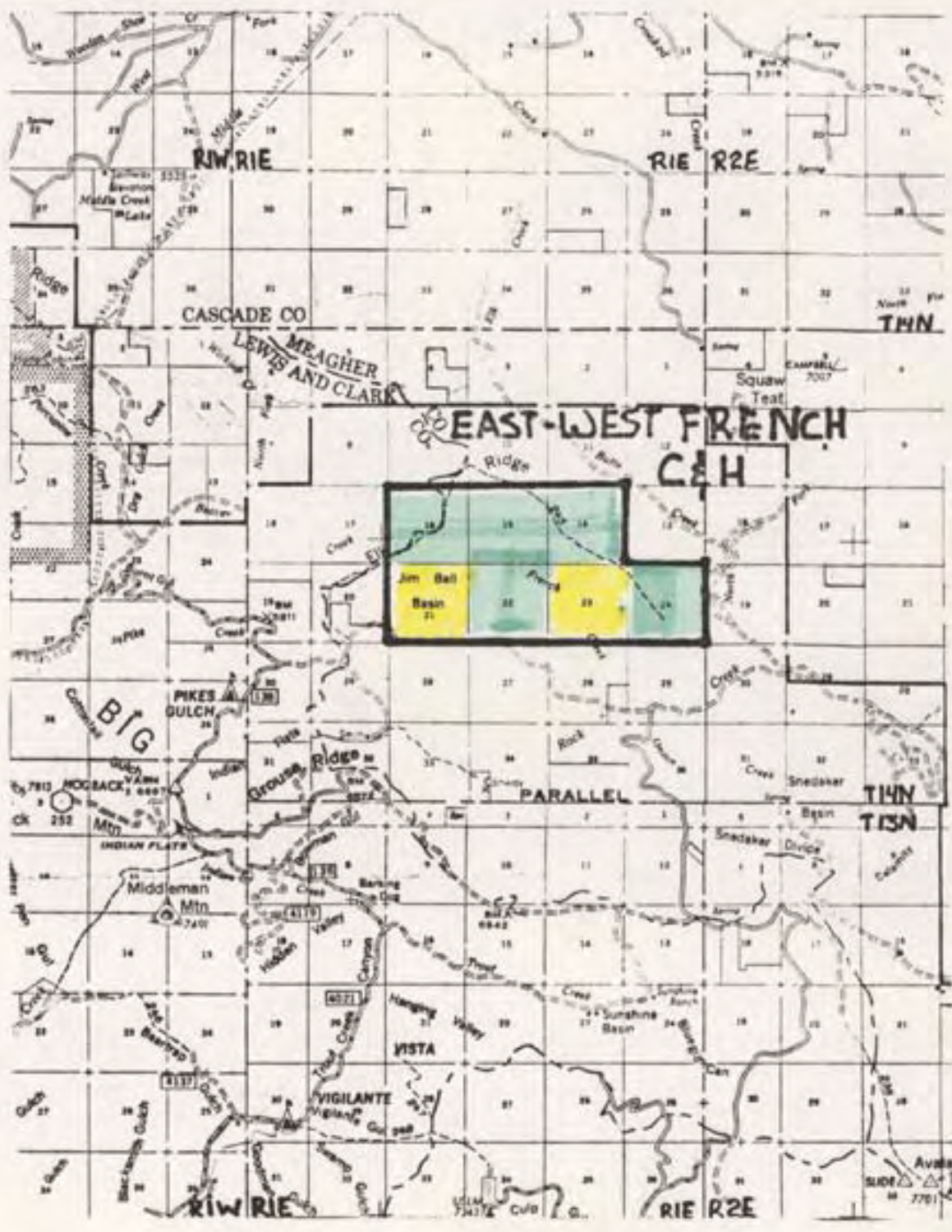
1. Allow plants opportunity to make and store food -- to recover vigor.
2. Allow seed to ripen.
3. Allow seedlings to become established.
4. Allow litter to accumulate between plants.

The amount of rest needed for these purposes depends on the plants involved, the character of the range, and the objectives of management, so is determined for each range individually.

Usually 1 or 2 years of rest is adequate to restore plant vigor. The key plant in deciding the amount of rest needed is the species that needs the most rest to regain vigor after it has been completely defoliated during the critical green period. Complete defoliation must be assumed because some plants are always grazed to this degree.

Seed-ripe date is determined by the species of plant that ripens seed latest in the season.

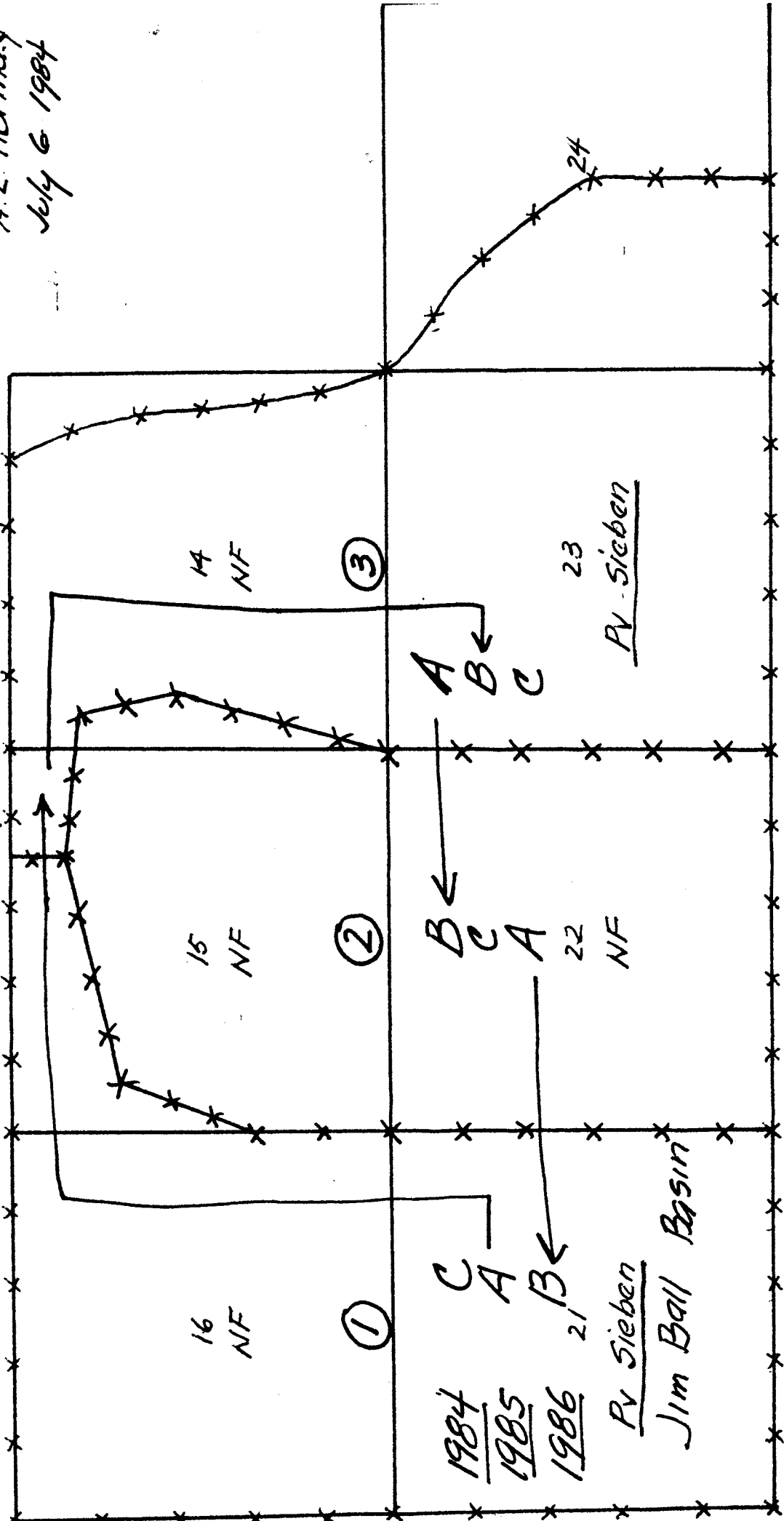
More than one year's rest is usually needed for establishment of seedlings. The key condition is that seedling are large enough to



A. Location Map

A. L. Hormay  
July 6 1984

2000' 1000' 1000' 1000'



Legend

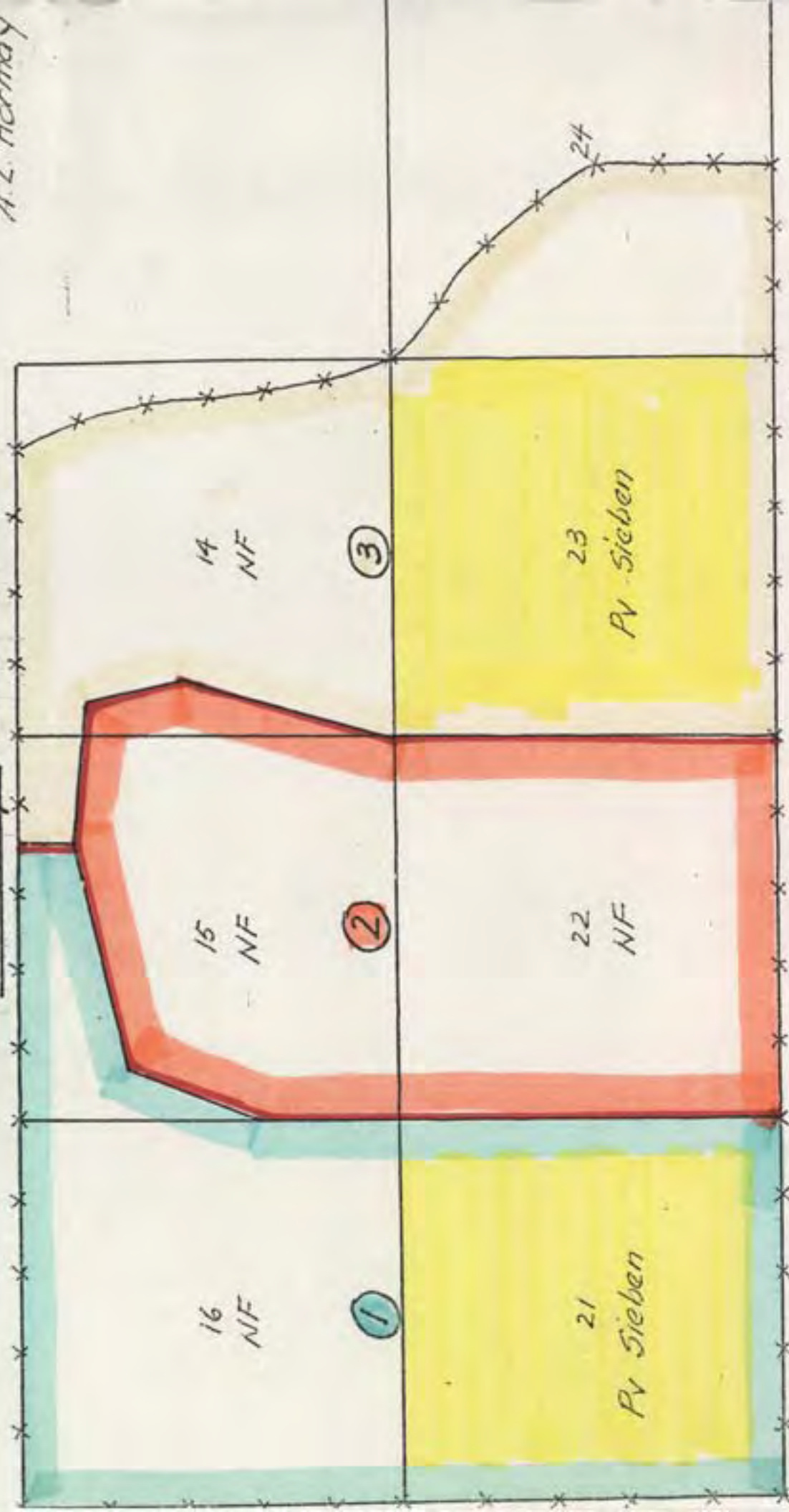
- Existing fence
- Proposed fence (Approx.)
- Pasture numbers
- National Forest
- Private land

Helena National Forest  
& Sieben Live Stock Co.

orig.

June 18, 1982  
A. L. Hermay

Elk Ridge File



*Legend*

- Existing fence (thin black line with 'x' marks)
- Proposed fence. (Approx.) (thick red line)
- Pasture numbers (circled numbers 1, 2, 3)
- National Forest (NF)
- Private land (yellow shaded area)

Helena National Forest  
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