

**ENVIRONMENTAL ASSESSMENT  
FOR THE  
SANTA ROSA RANCH PERMIT ISSUANCE**

**NV-020-04-EA-09**

WINNEMUCCA FIELD OFFICE  
BUREAU OF LAND MANAGEMENT

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## **I. BACKGROUND INFORMATION**

### **A. Introduction**

In 2003, a change in ownership of the base property for the grazing preference of the Mullinix Allotment occurred between Miller Investment and the Santa Rosa Ranch. Santa Rosa Ranch assumed control of the base property and the grazing preference was transferred from Miller Investment to Santa Rosa Ranch. Due to the grazing preference transfer, it is necessary to issue a new 10 year grazing permit.

### **B. Need for the Proposal**

The need for the proposal is to authorize legitimate multiple use of the public lands through the issuance of a 10 year grazing permit due to a transfer of grazing preference from Miller Investment to Santa Rosa Ranch in the Mullinix Allotment. The proposed action is in accordance with Title 43 CFR 4130.2(a), "Grazing permits or leases shall be issued to qualified applicants to authorize use on the public lands and other lands under to administration of the Bureau of Land Management that are designated as available for livestock grazing through land use plans."

The Mullinix Allotment Final Multiple Use Decision (FMUD) was issued March 4, 1998. Changes in grazing management to meet the land use plan objectives and allotment specific objectives were implemented through the FMUD.

A temporary term grazing permit has been issued for the period of April 30, 2003 to March 31, 2005 in accordance with "The Grazing Rider" portions of Section 114, PL 107-67, which states, "A grazing permit or lease that expires (or is transferred) during fiscal year 2003 shall be renewed under section 402 of the Federal Land Policy and Management Act of 1976, as amended (43 U.S.C. 1752)... The terms and conditions contained in the expiring permit or lease shall continue in effect under the new permit or lease until such time as the Secretary of Interior completes processing of such permit or lease..."

One of the objectives of the grazing regulations (43 CFR 4100.0-2) is "to provide for sustainability of the western livestock industry and communities that are dependant upon productive, healthy public rangelands." BLM is required by law to manage public lands "on the basis of multiple use and sustained yield . . ." (43 USC 1701, Sec. 102(a)(7)). Since the Paradise Denio Grazing Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) determined that grazing is an appropriate use for the public lands within these allotments, permit issuance must be considered.

The Authority for the grazing permits are the Taylor Grazing Act of 1934 as amended and supplemented, the Federal Land Policy and Management Act of 1976, and the Public Rangelands Improvement Act of 1978.

### **C. Relationship to Planning**

This Environmental Assessment (EA) is tiered to and incorporates by reference the Paradise-Denio Final Environmental Impact Statement and Record of Decision dated September 18, 1981 and Paradise-Denio Management Framework Plan (MFP) issued on July 9, 1982. This EA fulfills the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) requirement for site-specific analysis. Standards and Guidelines for grazing administration were developed by the Sierra Front - Northwestern Great Basin Resource Advisory Council and approved by the Secretary of the Interior on February 12, 1997. These recommended Standards and Guidelines reflect the stated goals of improving rangeland health while providing for the viability of the livestock industry in the Sierra Front - Northwestern Great Basin Resource Area. Standards and Guidelines are being implemented through terms and conditions of the grazing permits, leases, and other authorizations, grazing-related portions of activity plans (including Allotment Management Plans), and through range improvement-related activities.

The proposal is in conformance with the Paradise-Denio Final Environmental Impact Statement and Record of Decision dated September 18, 1981, the Paradise-Denio Management Framework Plan (MFP) issued on July 9, 1982, and the Mullinix Final Multiple Use Decision approved March 4, 1998. The proposal also incorporates by reference, the Sierra Front-Northwestern RAC Standards and Guidelines approved by the Secretary of the Interior on February 12, 1997.

Grazing regulation (43 CFR 4180.1) states the authorized officer shall "...ensure that the following conditions exist. (A) Watersheds are in, or are making significant progress toward, properly functioning physical condition (b) Ecological processes, including the hydrologic cycle, nutrient cycle, and energy flow, are maintained, or there is significant progress toward their attainment (c) Water quality complies with State water quality standards (d) Habitats are, or are making significant progress toward being restored or maintained for Federal threatened and endangered species..."

## **II. DESCRIPTION OF PROPOSED ACTION AND ALTERNATIVES**

### **A. Proposed Action**

The proposed action is to issue a new ten year grazing permit to Santa Rosa Ranch. This action would allow livestock (up to 116 cattle) to graze the allotment from April 16 to May 20. This action is associated with the transfer and control of base property from Miller investment to Santa Rosa Ranch. No increases in stocking level, changes of season of use, other changes to the grazing system, or new range improvements are included in the proposed action. The term of the new permit would be for ten years.

The 10 year grazing permit under consideration includes the Mullinix Allotment (see Appendix I for map).

A review of the monitoring data was conducted to assess rangeland health. Current monitoring data includes Utilization Monitoring for the years 1998, 1999, 2000, 2001, 2002, and 2003, which showed that utilization objectives were met by the grazing system implemented in the March 4, 1998 FMUD. Also, a Proper Functioning Condition (PFC) assessment in 1993 showed Mullinix Creek to be functioning at risk with an upward trend, and a current PFC assessment performed on March 22, 2004 showed that Mullinix Creek had improved to Proper Functioning Condition.

Results of the monitoring data review indicated no modifications to the term grazing permit would be needed to comply with the Standards and Guidelines. If a future assessment results in a determination that changes are necessary for compliance with the Standards and Guidelines, the term permit would be reissued subject to revised terms and conditions.

#### **B. No Action Alternative**

Under the no action alternative, a term grazing permit would not be issued to the Santa Rosa Ranch. The No Action Alternative would maintain the status quo, and as the proposed action is for a new permit, no permit would be issued to Santa Rosa Ranch. As a result, Santa Rosa Ranch would not be authorized to allow livestock grazing in the Mullinix Allotment. One of the uses identified in the land use plans for this allotment is livestock grazing. Therefore, the grazing preference for the Mullinix Allotment would then be available to other qualified applicants, who could in turn apply for a transfer of the AUMs associated with the grazing preference, and grazing could continue.

#### **C. No Grazing Alternative**

Under the no grazing alternative, no permit would be issued and the AUMs associated with the Mullinix Allotment grazing preference would not be available to other qualified applicants. The permit would be cancelled under this alternative. The Land Use Plan would need to be amended to allow permanent closure of the area to livestock grazing as that is one of the uses identified as part of multiple-use management for this allotment.

### **III. DESCRIPTION OF THE AFFECTED ENVIRONMENT**

The Mullinix Allotment is located approximately five miles north of Paradise Valley, NV in the foothills of the Santa Rosa Mountains. The allotment is 1,509 acres in size, of which 1,486 acres are public land. The allotment consists of two pastures, the Native and Seeding pastures, which are used under a rest-rotation grazing system. The season of use as outlined in the FMUD is for spring use. Livestock are authorized on the allotment from April 16 to May 20. The affected environment is further described in the Paradise-Denio Grazing EIS.

### **A. Wilderness Values**

There are no Wilderness Study Areas or Wilderness Areas within the Mullinix Allotment.

### **B. Wild Horses and Burros**

There are no Wild Horse and Burro Herd Management Areas within the Mullinix Allotment.

### **C. Special Status Species (Federally Listed, Proposed or Candidate Threatened or Endangered Species, and State Sensitive Species)**

The January 1995 Lahontan Cutthroat Trout (LCT) Recovery Plan formally adopted Mullinix Creek as LCT Recovery Stream. While the portion of the stream that falls on land managed by the BLM has not been identified for recovery, it is considered seasonal habitat, and has the possibility to support LCT on an intermittent basis during spring run-off. The stream is comprised of dominantly cobble and rubble bed materials and the adjacent riparian area is composed of mainly willows (*Salix* spp.) with sparse herbaceous vegetation. These stream characteristics coupled with the low to moderate gradient of the system result in a low sensitivity for disturbance by livestock and overall a stable stream system.

The Mullinix Allotment is also considered possible habitat for the Great Basin Population of the Columbia spotted frog (*Rana luteiventris*), a candidate species. No known current or historical populations of the Columbia spotted frog have been documented in the Mullinix Allotment. The closest recorded population is on the main fork of the Owyhee River in southern Idaho, which is over 65 miles to the northwest of the allotment. An inventory was completed in the adjoining lands managed by the U. S. Forest Service in the Santa Rosa District of the Humboldt National Forest. No incidence of the Columbia spotted frog was located during the inventory.

A threatened and endangered species inventory of terrestrial species has not been completed for the project area. However, according to the Nevada Natural Heritage Program database (January, 2003) no threatened, endangered, or candidate terrestrial species, including Pygmy rabbits (*Brachylagus idahoensis*) and Western burrowing owl (*Ahtene cunicularia hypugea*), were identified near the project area. A Mountain quail (*Oreortyx pictus*) occurrence was noted along Solid Silver Creek in 1963. Solid Silver Creek is located immediately north of the subject allotment. There is a slight potential for their occurrence along Mullinix Creek, however, there is no recent data to substantiate their presence there.

The western sage grouse (*Centrocercus urophasianus*) is a designated BLM sensitive species. Sage grouse are a sagebrush obligate species. There are no known leks located on the subject allotment, however, several leks are located within 2 miles of the

allotment. Sage grouse winter, summer and nesting habitat have been identified within the allotment. The riparian area along Mullinix Creek would be especially important for brood rearing, considering the nearby leks, and for summer habitat.

**D. Invasive, Non-Native Species (Including Noxious Weeds)**

Nevada Revised Statutes, Chapter 555.05 defines “noxious weeds” and mandates land owners and land management agencies to include control of noxious weeds on lands under their jurisdiction. Nevada has listed 42 non-native invasive plant species that require control. A complete list of these weeds is attached (See Appendix II). Of these 42 species, 13 are commonly found on the lands administered by the Winnemucca Field Office and include the following:

<b><u>Common Name</u></b>	<b><u>Scientific Name</u></b>
Poison Hemlock	<i>Conium maculatum</i>
Russian Knapweed	<i>Acroptilon repens</i>
Spotted Knapweed	<i>Centaria maculosa</i>
Leafy Spurge	<i>Euphorbia esula</i>
Medusa Head	<i>Taeniatherum caput-medusae</i>
Tall Whitetop	<i>Lepidium latifolium</i>
Puncturevine	<i>Tribulus terrestris</i>
Salt Cedar (Tamarisk)	<i>Tamarix ramosissima</i>
Canada Thistle	<i>Cirsium arvense</i>
Musk Thistle	<i>Cardus nutans</i>
Scotch Thistle	<i>Onopordum acanthium</i>
Yellow Star Thistle	<i>Centaria solstitialis</i>
Hoary Cress	<i>Cardaria draba</i>

Noxious weed infestations of Scotch Thistle (*Onopordum acanthium*), Leafy Spurge (*Euphorbia esula*), and Hoary Cress (*Cardaria draba*) have been identified along roads and trails within the allotment. Control of leafy spurge and Hoary Cress is planned for the summer of 2004.

**E. Wildlife**

A wide variety of wildlife species common to the Great Basin ecosystem/Big sagebrush community type can be found adjacent to or within the allotment. Approximately 100 bird species and 70 mammal species can be found in habitat similar to the project area and within adjacent sagebrush sites. Common species representative of the area include mule deer (Santa Rosa Deer Winter Range I – Concentration Area), mountain lion, coyote, badger, chukar partridge and numerous non-game species.

Executive Order 13186 titled, “Responsibilities of Federal Agencies to Protect Migratory Birds”, signed January 10, 2001, requires the BLM to evaluate the effects of Federal actions on migratory birds. Riparian areas are important to neo-tropical

migrant birds. A migratory bird inventory has not been completed for the project area. Common migratory birds which may use the area habitat includes: blue birds, swallows, flycatchers, kingbirds, warblers, finches, doves, juncos, wrens, sparrows, robins and meadowlarks.

#### **F. Riparian Areas**

The riparian areas associated with the Mullinix Allotment are a perennial stream, Mullinix Creek, which runs through both pastures of the allotment and three springs located on public land within the allotment. Under the current grazing system Mullinix Creek improved one condition class from Functional at Risk (FAR) with an upward trend to Proper Functioning Condition (PFC). The springs in the allotment are rated at FAR in a static condition.

#### **G. Cultural, Paleontological, and Historical Resource Values**

The eastern flank of the Santa Rosa Range contains a complex array of cultural resources representing human occupation dating from perhaps 10,000 to 12,000 years ago to comparatively recent historic times. In addition to the considerable temporal span indicated by these resources, surveys conducted to date indicate a wide breadth of behaviors of both a transitory and semi permanent nature took place, including the exploitation of floral and faunal resources, lithic procurement and tool manufacture, trade and exchange, ranching, mining, and transportation. While archaeologists have studied some aspects of these activities, others are not well understood.

Survey data indicates that during prehistoric times, the majority of occupation in the area occurred along drainages flowing east from the Santa Rosa Mountains and at numerous springs in the area. Archaeologically, these occupations are represented by large, dense lithic scatters that have been reported along virtually every substantial drainage examined in the area. Within the Mullinix Allotment, one such site exemplifies this prehistoric settlement pattern. Located along a terrace of Mullinix Creek, the site, CrNV-02-789, is approximately 1 mile in length and contains thousands of artifacts including a wide variety of lithic tools. Evaluation of the site indicates that it contains information that can aid in our understanding of some lesser-known aspects of past human behavior and is therefore considered eligible for the National Register of Historic Places. Similar sites are reported along neighboring Solid Silver, Coleman, and Little and Big Cottonwood Creeks.

Historic Period resources are less common in the immediate area. Although the Santa Rosa Range has a rich mining history, relatively little activity occurred along this part of the eastern flank and no known mining related resources are located within or near the Mullinix Allotment. Ranching activity also has a long and rich history in the area. Again, no ranching-related sites have been reported in the immediate area, although such remains are likely at spring locations or other areas that could have been used to manage livestock.

## **H. Soils/Vegetation**

The dominate soil mapping units for the Mullinix Allotment are 671 Devada-Burrita-Rock outcrop and 520 Lunder-Devada associations. These soils are composed of very cobbly and cobbly loam surfaces with clay subsoil overlying bedrock. The water erosion hazard is slight to moderate and the wind erosion hazard is slight.

The vegetation is composed of primarily low sagebrush, Sandberg bluegrass, bluebunch wheatgrass with pockets of Wyoming big sagebrush in the native pasture. The seeded pasture contains crested wheatgrass and the native species listed above but at a lower density.

## **I. Native American Religious Concerns**

The Mullinix Allotment lies within the traditional territory of *Yamosopo tuiwarai* (half-moon valley dwellers), a band or subgroup of Northern Paiute peoples. At present, no properties in the area are known to be places of traditional or religious importance to this or any other group.

# **IV. ENVIRONMENTAL CONSEQUENCES**

Environmental consequences of grazing were analyzed in the Paradise-Denio EIS. The proposed action is within the array of options identified for the proposed action and alternatives that were analyzed. There have been no major changes made associated with the term permit issuance from the analyzed rangeland management actions. The proposed action is not substantially different than the action analyzed in the Paradise-Denio EIS. No new resource information relevant to the proposed action, or impacts thereof, have been identified that would change the analysis or decisions. The following site-specific analysis is in addition to that in the Paradise-Denio EIS.

The proposed action and no action alternative would have no impacts to the following: wilderness values, Areas of Critical Environmental Concern, wild and scenic rivers; visual resource management; prime or unique farmlands; environmental justice; water quality (drinking/ground); air quality; wild horse and burros; Native American religious concerns; wastes, hazardous and solid; or migratory birds.

## **A. Special Status Species (Federally Listed, Proposed or Candidate Threatened or Endangered Species, and State Sensitive Species)**

### **Proposed Action**

Given the stream and riparian characteristics, this system would not be negatively impacted by livestock grazing during spring. Grazing during spring is highly compatible with willow management and it is considered a good strategy for fishery improvement within BLM TR 1737-14 (1997). Due to the seasonality of habitat for

LCT during this time coupled with the spawning period when LCT would be most likely within the headwater region of the watershed, LCT would not be negatively impacted by spring livestock grazing. Indirectly LCT would benefit from improved riparian condition in the lower watershed, since it most likely serves as winter refugium and rearing habitat.

If the Columbia spotted frog (CSF) did occur in the allotment, it would share the same approximate habitat requirements as the LCT, with the inclusion of other springs and riparian areas that retain water throughout the year. Should the frog occur, no impacts are expected from the proposed action.

It's anticipated that the proposed action would have no negative impacts on sage grouse. The light utilization coupled with the grazing season of use would ultimately lead to a good mixture of grasses, forbs and shrubs within the capability of the ecological sites located on the allotment. The same grazing factors should result in healthy riparian habitat along Mullinix Creek, which is important to the summer and brood use there.

Additionally, should Mountain quail actually occur in the allotment, improving riparian habitat would also be beneficial to them.

#### **No Action Alternative**

Impacts would be the same as described in the Proposed Action.

#### **No Grazing Alternative**

LCT would not be negatively impacted by the No grazing Alternative. Rest or closure from livestock grazing is considered an excellent strategy for fishery improvement with the BLM TR 1737-14 (1997). Direct beneficial impacts would occur to LCT in both the short and long term.

No impacts to special status species are expected under the No Grazing Alternative.

### **B. Invasive, Non-Native Species (Including Noxious Weeds)**

#### **Proposed Action**

Implementation of the proposed action could have a possible impact regarding invasive and noxious species. There is the possibility that livestock could transport weed seeds to un-infested areas, or denude vegetation creating bare areas that are easily colonized by invasive or noxious weeds. However, the current infestations are located along roads suggesting that the main transmission route of propagules and seeds is through vehicular travel within the allotment.

#### **No Action Alternative**

Impacts would be the same as described in the Proposed Action.

### **No Grazing Alternative**

No additional impacts are expected from implementation of the No Grazing Alternative.

## **C. Wildlife**

### **Proposed Action**

The proposed action should have no negative impacts on wildlife using the allotment. Since the allotment is used primarily by mule deer in the winter, no negative impact to them are expected. The short proposed season of use and the levels of utilization should meet the objectives for rangeland health.

Meeting objectives for rangeland health should provide the plant species diversity and structure important to migratory birds. This is especially true of the riparian area associated with Mullinix Creek, if its quality improves as a result of the proposed season of use and levels of grazing utilization

Impacts to fishery and aquatic resources would be the same as those described in Section A.

### **No Action Alternative**

Impacts would be the same as described in the Proposed Action.

### **No Grazing Alternative**

Impacts to fishery and aquatic resources would be the same as those described in Section A.

No impacts to terrestrial wildlife or migratory birds are expected under the No Grazing Alternative.

## **D. Riparian Areas**

### **Proposed Action**

Due to the season-of-use, no adverse impacts are expected on riparian areas in the allotment. Some trampling may occur, but due to the rocky/cobbly nature of the streambed and associated riparian area this should be minimal. In addition, water developments in the allotment provide alternative water sources for livestock.

Monitoring has not shown any adverse impacts to the riparian areas in the allotment under the current grazing system, which will be maintained in the new permit.

**No Action Alternative**

Impacts would be the same as described in the Proposed Action.

**No Grazing Alternative**

There would be no impacts from the No Grazing Alternative.

**E. Cultural, Paleontological, and Historical Resource Values**

**Proposed Action**

Trampling and trailing associated with livestock grazing has the potential to detrimentally effect cultural values by dispersing and destroying artifacts, disrupting site integrity, eradicating subsurface and/or datable cultural deposits, and promoting erosion. However, these impacts are generally negligible as long as the cattle are dispersed. Much more severe ground disturbance is likely at troughs, salting grounds, and other locations where livestock aggregate. Within the Mullinix Allotment, these locations do not appear to coincide with known or potential areas of high cultural resource sensitivity.

Under the proposed action, no increase in stocking levels is proposed and no new range improvements are envisioned; a relatively small number of cattle will graze the allotment for a fairly short period of time. No increase in the intensity of trampling and trailing and, therefore, potential adverse impacts to cultural resources is likely under this proposed action.

**No Action Alternative**

Impacts would be the same as described in the Proposed Action.

**No Grazing Alternative**

The no grazing alternative would have a beneficial effect on cultural resource values by eliminating a source of potential impacts.

**F. Rangeland Resources**

**Proposed Action**

No adverse impacts are expected from the proposed action. The grazing system as outlined in the Mullinix Allotment Final Multiple Use Decision (FMUD) has provided for allotment specific objectives and standards to be met. Allowable use levels

described in the FMUD allow for proper utilization and livestock distribution during the early spring period of use. Proper utilization and distribution would in turn allow the habitats to exhibit healthy plant species, to exhibit infiltration and permeability rates appropriate to site potential and would provide suitable habitat for other animal species. Rangeland monitoring has not shown any adverse impacts from the current grazing system, and as the current grazing system would be maintained in the new permit, no additional impacts are expected.

#### **No Action Alternative**

The no action alternative would have an adverse economic impact to Santa Rosa Ranch by non-issuance of the permit. Otherwise, impacts would be the same as the proposed action.

#### **No Grazing Alternative**

The no grazing alternative would have an adverse economic impact to Santa Rosa Ranch by non-issuance of the permit. There is also the possible economic impact to Paradise Valley, NV, which is a small rural community dependent upon ranching and agriculture.

### **G. Soils/Vegetation**

#### **Proposed Action**

Soils would be managed to maintain the natural habitat of the area and to minimize the potential for accelerated (man caused) wind and water erosion. To maintain soil processes a healthy, productive and diverse plant community is necessary. Healthy plant communities must be able to complete their life cycle by preventing damage during the critical growth period. Livestock would graze during the early critical growth period for plants. This early grazing would allow for recovery of the grazed plants to complete their life cycle. This proposal would allow existing plants and plant cover to increase, thus reducing bare soil and lessening the impacts from erosion. Livestock grazing during the early critical growth period would allow for healthy biological crusts. Livestock grazing occurs when soil surface moisture is present and biological crusts are less vulnerable to shear and compressional forces allowing for their recovery. Soil and vegetation impacts would be minimal.

#### **No Action Alternative**

If a permit is not issued to the Santa Rosa Ranch, other applicants could apply. The impacts to soil and vegetation would be the same as the proposed action, as long as the grazing period would remain the same.

#### **No Grazing Alternative**

Under the no grazing alternative, there could be a possible benefit from removal of a source of potential impacts.

## **H. Native American Religious Concerns**

### **Proposed Action**

Input has been solicited from the Winnemucca and Ft. McDermitt Tribal Councils requesting assistance in identifying places of traditional and religious importance in the vicinity of the Mullinix Allotment. No response has been received from these groups. Therefore, the proposed action is considered to have no effect on places of Native American religious concern.

### **No Action Alternative**

Impacts would be the same as described in the Proposed Action.

### **No Grazing Alternative**

The no action alternative would have no effect on places of traditional or religious importance to Native American groups. Under this alternative, no solicitation with local tribal officials will be undertaken.

## **I. Cumulative Impacts**

The Council of Environmental Quality (CEQ) regulations implementing NEPA defines in part cumulative impact as: “The impact on the environment which results from the incremental impact of the action when added to other past, present, or reasonably foreseeable future actions.” Cumulative impacts can result from individually minor but collectively significant actions taking place over a period of time (40 CFR 1508.7).

Cumulative impacts for the area of the proposed action are further described in the Paradise Denio Grazing EIS.

The area for analysis concerning cumulative impacts is the Mullinix Creek watershed. (See map in appendix I)

Past and present actions in the area are livestock grazing and recreation.

Past impacts from livestock grazing include trampling of riparian areas and removal of excess vegetation as a result of overgrazing. These impacts have been mitigated in the present through the 1998 FMUD which included changes in season of use and reductions in livestock numbers. Current impacts to soils, vegetation and riparian areas, as well as the wildlife and special status species that rely on those resources, are considered low.

Past and present impacts from recreation include disturbance of vegetation and increased soil erosion from OHV and other recreation uses. There is also the possibility of wildlife or livestock being displaced or scared from areas by recreation activities such as hunting, fishing, hiking, camping, or OHV use.

#### Reasonable Foreseeable Future Actions

Livestock grazing is expected to stay at the same rate in the reasonably foreseeable future, so impacts should remain similar to the present impacts.

Recreation is expected to increase in the future. Impacts from recreation would be the same, but would most likely increase in their severity.

### **V. PROPOSED MONITORING/MITIGATION MEASURES**

The terms and conditions included as part of the term grazing permit would mitigate anticipated impacts. No additional mitigation measures have been proposed as a result of the analysis of the potential impacts (see appendix II for current terms and conditions).

Rangeland monitoring would be conducted by BLM Specialists based on Winnemucca District priorities. Specific rangeland monitoring studies may include proper functioning condition, riparian studies, cover studies, ecological condition studies, key forage plant method utilization transects, Cole browse, use pattern mapping, frequency trend, or observed apparent trend. The permittee would be encouraged to participate in monitoring. Noxious weed detection would be incorporated into monitoring activities.

Appropriate monitoring has been included in the proposed action. No additional monitoring has been proposed as a result of the analysis of the potential impacts.

### **VI. CONSULTATION AND COORDINATION**

#### **A. Intensity of Public Interest and Record of Contacts**

The Winnemucca Field Office mails an annual Consultation, Cooperation, and Coordination (CCC) Letter to individuals and organizations that have expressed an interest in rangeland management related actions. Those receiving the annual CCC Letter have the opportunity to request from the Field Office more information regarding specific actions. The following individuals/organizations have requested information on all actions regarding rangeland management in the Mullinix Allotment

NDOW Fallon  
Western Watershed Project  
Committee for High Desert  
USDA - Carson City

Humboldt County Commissioners  
USFWS  
NDOW Winnemucca

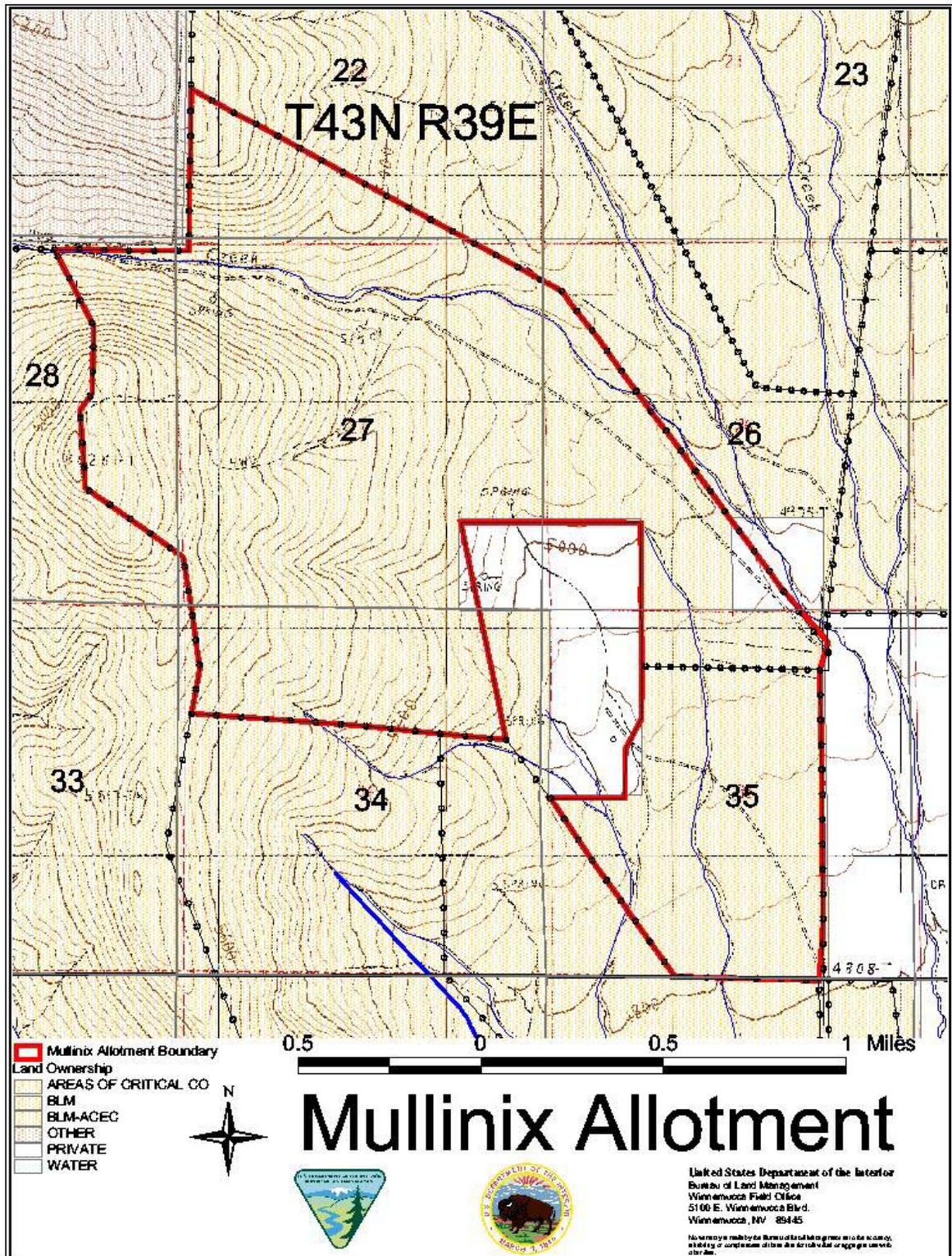
In addition to the individuals/organization listed above, a consultation letter was sent to the following Native American Tribal Councils informing them of this action and asking them to express any concerns they might have.

Ft. McDermitt Tribal Council  
Winnemucca Tribal Council

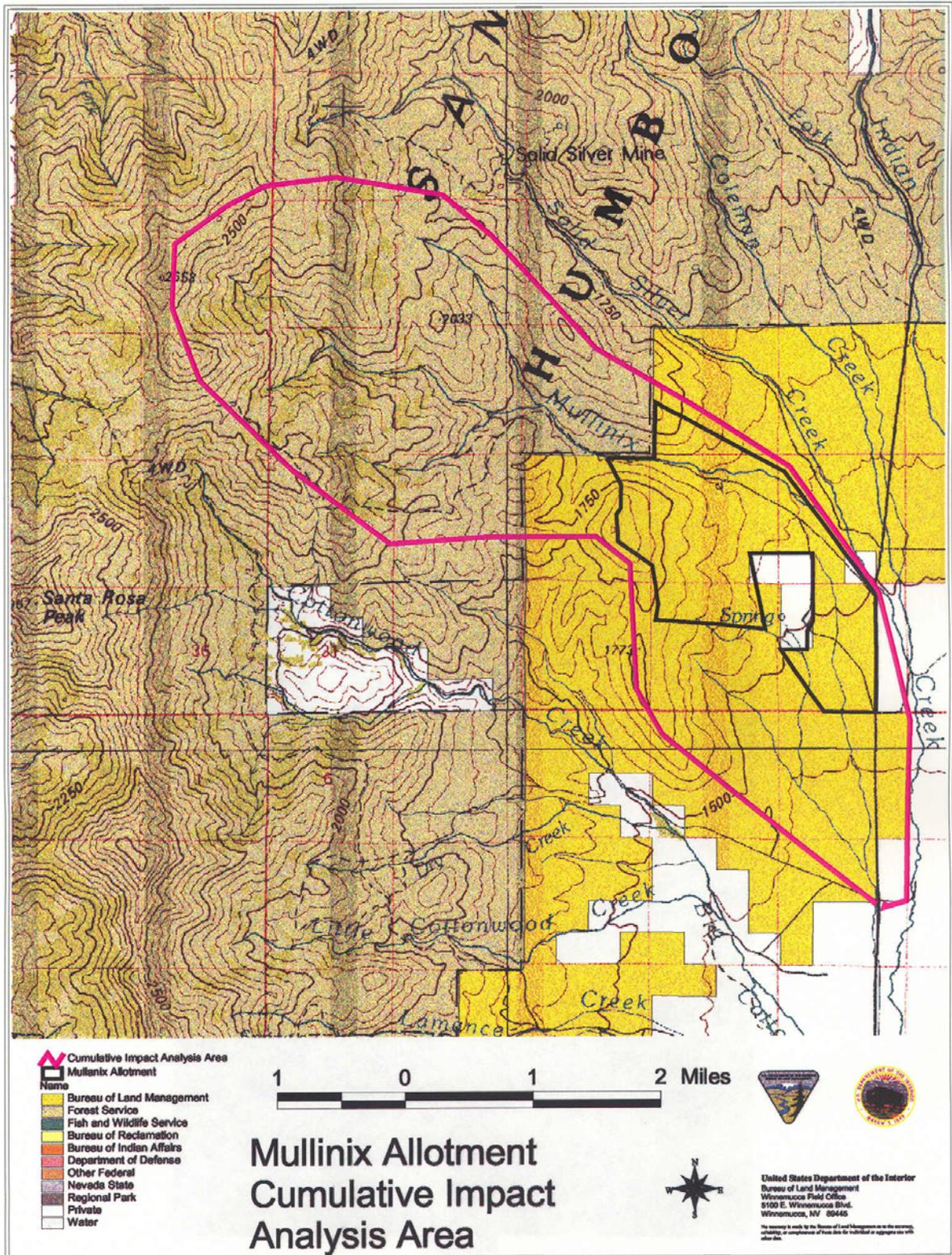
**B. Internal District Review**

Matt Varner	Fisheries
Chuck Neill	Noxious Weeds/Invasive Species
Derek Messmer	Rangeland Resources
Ken Detweiler	Special Status Species/Migratory Birds/Wildlife
Mark Ennes	Cultural, Paleontological, and Historical Resources Native American Religious Concerns
Lynn Harrison	Environmental Coordinator
Mike Zielinski	Vegetation /Soils

Appendix I – Allotment map(s)



Appendix I (Cont'd)



## **Appendix II – Terms and Conditions for the Proposed Action**

Grazing use on the Mullinix Allotment will be in accordance with the Final Multiple Use Decision dated March 4, 1998.

The terms and conditions set forth must be in conformance with the standards and guidelines for the Sierra Front – Northwestern Great Basin Resource Advisory Council, approved by the Secretary of the Interior on February 12, 1997.

Changes in livestock numbers, turnout and removal dates, and pasture movements must be approved in advance. Changes may be authorized only if this is consistent with management objectives.

“Pursuant to 43 CFR 10.4(g) the holder of this authorization must notify the authorized officer, by telephone, with written confirmation immediately upon the discovery of human remains, funerary objects, sacred objects, or object of cultural patrimony (as defined at 43 CFR 10.2). Further, pursuant to 43 CFR 10.4© and (d), you must stop activities in the immediate vicinity of the discovery and protest it from your activities for 30 days or until notified to proceed by the authorized officer.”

Salt and/or mineral blocks shall not be placed within one quarter (1/4) mile of springs, streams, meadows, riparian habitats, or aspen stands.

The permittee is required to perform normal maintenance on the range improvements as per their signed cooperative agreements/section 4 permits prior to turning out in a pasture or use area scheduled for livestock use.

The permittee certified actual use report, by pasture/use area is due 15 days after the end of the authorized grazing period.