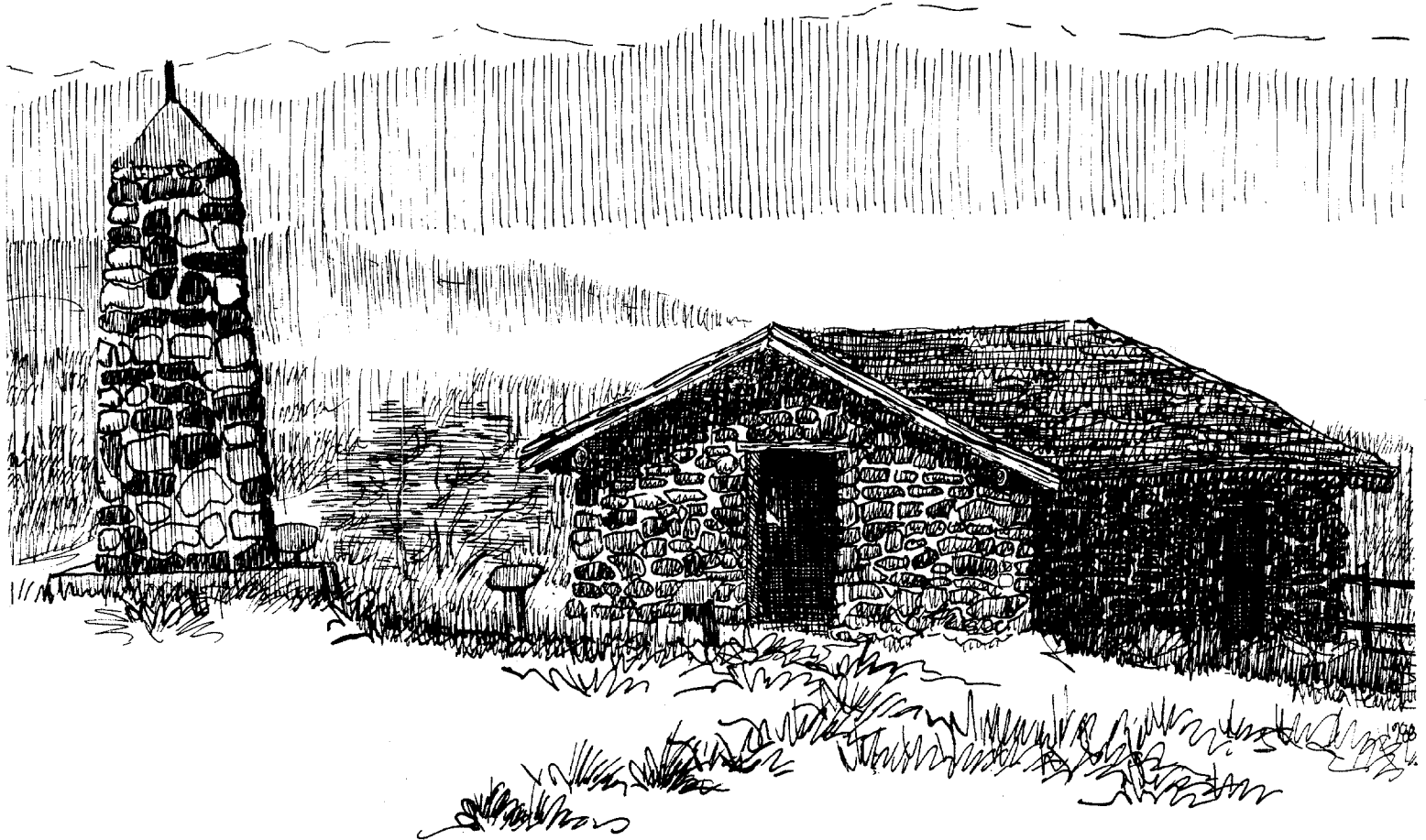


**RECORD OF DECISION**  
**FOR THE**  
**PONY EXPRESS RESOURCE MANAGEMENT PLAN**  
**AND**  
**RANGELAND PROGRAM SUMMARY FOR UTAH COUNTY**



**SALT LAKE DISTRICT**

**BUREAU OF LAND MANAGEMENT**

**U.S. DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR**

**JANUARY 1990**

**RECORD OF DECISION**

for the

**PONY EXPRESS RESOURCE MANAGEMENT PLAN**

and

**RANGELAND PROGRAM SUMMARY FOR UTAH COUNTY**

Prepared By

United States Department of the Interior

Bureau of Land Management

Salt Lake District Office

Salt Lake City, Utah

PONY EXPRESS RESOURCE AREA  
RESOURCE MANAGEMENT PLAN  
RECORD OF DECISION  
AND  
UTAH COUNTY RANGELAND PROGRAM SUMMARY

We have recommended and approved for implementation the proposed decisions of the Pony Express Resource Management Plan and Rangeland Program Summary. The specific details of the decisions are included in the contents of this Record of Decision.

Recommended By:

01-05-90  
Date

Howard Hedrick  
Area Manager

Jan. 5, 1990  
Date

Deane H. Zeller  
District Manager

Approved By:

1-12-1990  
Date

James M. Parker  
State Director

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## Introduction

The Pony Express Resource Management Plan (RMP) provides direction for management of the public lands and resources in Tooele, Utah, and Salt Lake Counties, Utah. It complies with the Federal Land Policy and Management Act of 1976 and the appropriate planning and grazing regulations (43 CFR 1600 and 43 CFR 4160). The decisions identified in this RMP apply to all public lands within the three counties and any lands subsequently added. Other Federal, State, and private properties are discussed only to the extent that their management interacts with that of BLM. This plan will remain in effect until it is determined by management to be outdated. The plan may be amended or revised to incorporate new uses of public lands in Tooele, Utah and Salt Lake Counties.

The public lands in Tooele, Utah, and Salt Lake Counties are within BLM's Salt Lake District and are administered by the Pony Express Resource Area (PERA). Within the resource area, BLM manages 2,032,706 acres of public land with subsurface minerals owned by the Federal Government and another 40,889 acres of Federal mineral estate without public land surface.

## Implementation

The decisions presented in this plan will be implemented over a period of years. The ability of the Salt Lake District to complete the identified projects is directly dependent upon the BLM budgeting process. The priorities for accomplishment will be reviewed annually and may be revised based upon changes in law, regulations, policy, or economic factors such as cost-effectiveness of projects.

## Monitoring

Monitoring systems will be developed to determine the overall effectiveness of the management decisions made in the RMP. During 1990, an overall monitoring plan will be prepared to set priorities and track the implementation of decisions. In the annual activity planning for each resource program, BLM will outline the necessary on-the-ground monitoring for determining whether the RMP objectives are being met. All monitoring

will be conducted according to the direction and policy for each of the various resource programs.

## Alternatives Analyzed

Four alternatives were analyzed in the Draft Pony Express Resource Management Plan and Final Environmental Impact Statement.

Alternative 1 described the current management in the Resource Area. Since it did not include any changes in current management, it was identified as the "no action" alternative.

Alternative 2 provided for development of resources while protecting or enhancing environmental values. This alternative was identified as BLM's preferred alternative in the Draft RMP/EIS. It resolved issues in the most balanced manner.

Alternative 3 gave priority to resource use and commodity production (mineral development, livestock grazing, motorized recreation, etc.). Other resources would be protected to the extent required by laws, executive orders, and other mandates.

Alternative 4 gave priority to protection or enhancement of environmental values (e.g. wildlife, watershed, aesthetics, non-motorized recreation). Resource use and commodity production would be allowed to the extent they would be compatible with the nondevelopment uses.

The proposed decisions identified in the Proposed Resource Management Plan and Final Environmental Impact Statement consisted primarily of the components of Alternative 2. Several changes had been made based upon information received during the comment period on the draft document.

## Public Involvement

The public was involved in various ways in the development of this plan. The public was notified of the preparation of the Pony Express Resource Management Plan/Environmental Impact Statement (RMP/EIS) through news releases, letters, and a Federal Register notice published on Friday November 21, 1986. These notices also

gave information on the public scoping meetings. Four meetings were held; December 9, 1986 in Ibapah, December 10, 1986 in Tooele, December 16, 1986 in Salt Lake City, and December 17, 1986 in Provo. Two additional meetings were held on January 21, 1987 in Ibapah and in Tooele on January 22, 1987. These meetings gave the public a chance to voice concerns on management of public lands in the PERA.

A notice of public comment on the Draft Pony Express RMP/EIS was published in the Federal Register on Friday May 13, 1988. This notice included information on the open house meetings that were held during the comment period. These meetings helped interested members of the public understand the draft document and explained how to comment on the document. The meetings were held on June 28, 1988 in Provo and Tooele and on June 29, 1988 in Wendover.

The notice of availability of the Proposed Resource Management Plan and Final Environmental Impact Statement was published in the Federal Register on Monday September 26, 1988. This notice outlined three proposed Areas of Environmental Concern (ACEC) and the resource use limitations associated with each ACEC.

## Protest Resolution

The public was notified of their right to protest the proposed plan through the Federal Register, news releases, and letters. The protest period ended on October 30, 1988. Two protests affecting all or parts of six decisions were filed. The affected decisions include Lands Decisions 2, 5, Minerals Decision 3, Recreation Decision 1, 2 and Areas of Environmental Concern Decision 1. The protest involving Recreation Decision 2, Off-road Vehicle Designations, was withdrawn by the Sierra Club before formal protest resolution was necessary. The remaining protested decisions or portions of decisions are included in this document and are highlighted in bold print. The implementation of the protested decisions is pending the outcome of the protest. Subsequent to the resolution of the protest, a Federal Register Notice and supplemental Record of Decision will be published prior to implementation of these decisions.

## Consistency Review

The Pony Express RMP was determined to be consistent with plans, programs and policies of the Forest Service, Bureau of Indian Affairs, Tooele County, Utah County and Salt Lake County. It was also reviewed by the State of Utah and was determined to be consistent with any officially approved resource related plans or policies of the state, as indicated in Governor Norman H. Bangerter's letter to James M. Parker, BLM's Utah State Director, dated November 18, 1988.

## PONY EXPRESS RESOURCE MANAGEMENT PLAN

This plan contains the decisions for management of public lands in Tooele, Utah, and Salt Lake Counties. A rationale for each decision is also provided.

## LANDS PROGRAM

### Priorities

Highest priority will be given to lands actions that meet one or more of the criteria listed in Lands Decision 3, whether or not those actions involve exchange of lands. Proposals initiated by the public will be given high priority if deemed to meet one or more of those criteria.

Priorities for the 47 parcels identified for disposal are as follows:

- 1) Exchange where practical.
- 2) Disposal of landfills.
- 3) Disposal to state and local governments and other federal agencies.
- 4) Disposal to any other interested party.

## Decision 1

A total of 47 tracts totaling 8,924 acres, would be available for disposal. These are listed in Table 1 and 2 and shown in Figure 1. All parcels would be managed for disposal under all available authorities except tracts 13, 69, and 70, which would not be available for Section 203 sales.

Fourteen parcels would be available for disposal subject to certain restrictions on persons or purposes under which a disposal would occur. Table 3 identifies these parcels and applicable limitations.

### Rationale

In Section 203 of the Federal Land Policy and Management Act of 1976, Congress has allowed the disposal of public land when such tract, because of its location or other characteristics, is difficult and uneconomical to manage as part of the public lands and is not suitable for management by another Federal department or agency.

Forty-four tracts meet the criteria for disposal under all available authorities (see Table 2) including Section 203 sales. These include one tract (4A) added to the identified disposal areas. This 65-acre tract was not included in the Draft RMP/EIS. No significant environmental consequences would result if tract 4A were disposed.

Tracts that may be suitable for management by another Federal agency and otherwise meet the disposal criteria have been separately identified and will be disposed of only after the adjoining Federal agency has indicated a lack of interest in them. Tracts that may be suitable for management by another Federal agency but otherwise do not meet the disposal criteria will be retained by BLM if the adjoining Federal agency is not interested in acquiring them.

Four tracts were dropped from the preferred alternative in the Draft RMP/EIS based upon new information received from the State of Utah (see Comment Letter 22 in the Proposed RMP/EIS). Tracts 36 and 37 contain important sage grouse habitat. Tracts 94 and 95 contain high priority big

game habitat and crucial deer winter range, respectively.

## Decision 2

A total of 411,140 acres of public lands are not available for disposal or any other transfer from Federal ownership and BLM management. These lands are identified in Table 4 and shown in Figure 2. BLM must amend the RMP before any of the areas could be disposed, transferred to another agency, or exchanged.

**A portion of this decision cannot be implemented until the protest is resolved. The protested portion of this decision includes 30,680 acres on the Bonneville Salt Flats. This additional acreage would bring the total acres unavailable for ownership adjustments to 441,820.**

### Rationale

These lands have high public value and include critical or crucial wildlife habitats, wilderness study areas, proposed Areas of Critical Environmental Concern (ACECs), significant water resources, recreation areas, highly scenic areas, and areas with facilities and improvements. A complete description of the areas is found in Appendix 2 of the Draft RMP/EIS.

## Decision 3

The remaining public lands (1,581,962 acres) in the Pony Express Resource Area (including revoked withdrawals returned to BLM administration) are available for exchange.

In order to be considered, exchanges of public land in the Pony Express Resource Area must accomplish one or more of the following criteria:

(1) Increase public ownership within those areas of public land which are not available for disposal or any other transfer from Federal ownership and BLM management (see Table 4 and Figure 2).

(2) Result in a net gain of significant resource values on public land such as important wildlife habitat, cultural sites, riparian zones, live water, and threatened and endangered species.

- (3) Improve the accessibility of the public lands.
- (4) Contribute toward more efficient management of public lands through consolidation of ownership.
- (5) Remove from Federal ownership public lands which have lost all significant public values due to on-site or adjacent uses.

Land exchanges will continue to be analyzed on a case-by-case basis. Resource values may be incorporated into the fair market value of the land.

### Rationale

Exchanges would allow the readjustment of ownership patterns without a net loss of Federal ownership or natural resource values if they are accomplished under the criteria listed above. Current BLM policy favors large exchanges that result in a significant benefit to the public.

### Decision 4

Military exercises are discouraged because they tend to preclude multiple use activities and public access. Military activities that result in significant, adverse, long-term impacts or public safety hazards would not be allowed.

BLM will continue to approve military requests for casual use for which no formal authorization is required. Examples of these types of requests are temporary placement of communication equipment along existing roads, search and rescue training involving helicopters and foot patrols, and temporary observation posts.

BLM will continue to consider requests for long-term military uses involving construction or development of facilities. These uses are appropriately authorized under 43 CFR 2800 and include radar or microwave communications sites, and linear facilities, such as roads, power lines, and communication lines.

For requests made by the Utah National Guard, BLM can issue a permit under 43 CFR 2920. For uses such as a bivouac of troops and off-road travel, requests would be considered through the environmental assessment process to determine the significance of impacts. Public land will not be

made available for inappropriate uses such as storage or use of hazardous materials (munitions, fuel, chemicals, etc.) and live artillery firing.

### Rationale

BLM is mandated to manage the public land for multiple resource uses. Some military uses directly conflict with this mandate, while others such as casual use can be permitted without affecting other interests. The environmental assessment process will determine the potential significance of impacts from military proposals in cases where the conflicts cannot be immediately ascertained.

### Decision 5

In the Pony Express Resource Area, BLM withdrawals will continue for public water reserves and power sites. BLM will continue to pursue withdrawal action on 709 acres at Simpson Springs Recreation Area (see Figure 3). If not designated wilderness by Congress, the North Deep Creek Mountains will be evaluated for possible withdrawal action.

**A portion of this decision involving 30,680 acres on the Bonneville Salt Flats is under protest. When the protest is resolved BLM will continue to pursue withdrawal action on the 30,680 acres on the salt flats.**

Revocation action will be pursued for the Federal Aviation Agency's withdrawal of 339 acres of public land in Tooele County, subject to FAA's request for relinquishment. Following revocation, the agency's two navigation sites would be authorized by rights-of-way.

### Rationale

The proposed withdrawal at Simpson Springs would help protect important recreation, cultural values, and water sources.

The proposed withdrawal on the Bonneville Salt Flats would help protect rare and unique geologic resources.

If the Deep Creek Mountains are not designated as a wilderness area by Congress, this area should be reviewed to determine whether any of the



Maintenance Change No. 3-1

RMP MAINTENANCE SHEET

Plan Name Pony Express RMP Area PE

LOCATION OF CHANGE

Page No. 3 Paragraph No. 1 Line No. 1

CHANGE

Delete: 47 tracts 8924 acres

Insert: 48 tracts 8964 acres

3 page 12  
Table 1: page 9  
Parcel 110 TIN R19W Lunc  
Sec 34 SW1/4 NE1/4

REASON

Additional parcel identified for sale

SIGNATURE AS APPROPRIATE

Program Leader \_\_\_\_\_ Date \_\_\_\_\_

Environmental Coordinator Alice Stephenson Date 4-30-91

Area Manager \_\_\_\_\_ Date \_\_\_\_\_

TABLE 1

## LANDS IDENTIFIED FOR DISPOSAL

| <u>Parcel No.</u> | <u>Legal Description</u>   | <u>Acres</u>                          |
|-------------------|--|---------------------------------------|
| 2.                | T. 1S., R. 19W.,<br>Section 3, Lots 1 & 2  | 81.2                                  |
| 4.                | T. 9S., R. 19W.,<br>Section 10, S $\frac{1}{2}$ SW $\frac{1}{4}$ NE $\frac{1}{4}$  | 5.0                                   |
| 4A.               | T. 8S., R. 19W.,<br>Section 9, E $\frac{1}{2}$ E $\frac{1}{2}$ SW $\frac{1}{4}$ , E $\frac{1}{2}$ E $\frac{1}{2}$ NE $\frac{1}{4}$ SW $\frac{1}{4}$<br>Section 10, W $\frac{1}{2}$ W $\frac{1}{2}$ SW $\frac{1}{4}$ , E $\frac{1}{2}$ SW $\frac{1}{4}$ NE $\frac{1}{4}$ SW $\frac{1}{4}$ , E $\frac{1}{2}$ W $\frac{1}{2}$ SW $\frac{1}{4}$ ,<br>W $\frac{1}{2}$ E $\frac{1}{2}$ SW $\frac{1}{4}$ , SE $\frac{1}{2}$ SE $\frac{1}{2}$ SW $\frac{1}{4}$ | +65.0                                 |
| 6.                | T. 10S., R. 19W.,<br>Section 3, NE $\frac{1}{2}$ SW $\frac{1}{4}$ of Lot 2   | 5.0                                   |
| 8.                | T. 6S., R. 18W.,<br>Section 7, SE $\frac{1}{4}$ NE $\frac{1}{4}$<br>Section 8, SW $\frac{1}{4}$ , NE $\frac{1}{4}$ NE $\frac{1}{4}$<br>Section 9, W $\frac{1}{2}$ NE $\frac{1}{4}$   | 40.0<br>200.0<br>80.0<br><u>320.0</u> |
| 11.               | T. 1S., R. 13W.,<br>Section 13, E $\frac{1}{2}$ SE $\frac{1}{4}$ , E $\frac{1}{2}$ W $\frac{1}{2}$ SE $\frac{1}{4}$<br>Section 24, NE $\frac{1}{4}$ NE $\frac{1}{4}$   | 160.0                                 |
| 13.               | T. 3S., R. 8W.,<br>Section 22, NW $\frac{1}{4}$ NE $\frac{1}{4}$ SE $\frac{1}{4}$  | 10.0                                  |
| 14.               | T. 6S., R. 8W., Section 34, NE $\frac{1}{4}$ NE $\frac{1}{4}$ , NE $\frac{1}{2}$   | 360.0                                 |
| 17.               | T. 6S., R. 7W.,<br>Section 3, SW $\frac{1}{4}$ , SE $\frac{1}{4}$<br>Section 4, SE $\frac{1}{4}$ NE $\frac{1}{4}$<br>Section 10, NE $\frac{1}{4}$ NE $\frac{1}{4}$   | 320.0<br>40.0<br>40.0<br><u>400.0</u> |
| 20.               | T. 1S., R. 6W.,<br>Section 29, SW $\frac{1}{4}$ SW $\frac{1}{4}$   | 40.0                                  |
| 21.               | T. 2S., R. 6W.,<br>Section 7, Lot 6<br>Section 18, Lot 11  | 37.3<br>26.8<br><u>64.1</u>           |

| <u>Parcel No.</u> | <u>Legal Description</u>   | <u>Acres</u>                   |
|-------------------|--|--------------------------------|
| 22.               | T. 2S., R. 6W.,<br>Section 14, NE $\frac{1}{2}$ SW $\frac{1}{2}$   | 40.0                           |
| 26A.              | T. 8S., R. 5W.,<br>Section 19, Lot 3: E $\frac{1}{2}$ NE $\frac{1}{2}$   | 5.0                            |
| 29.               | T. 6S., R. 5W.,<br>Section 27, NE $\frac{1}{2}$ SW $\frac{1}{2}$   | 40.0                           |
| 31.               | T. 6S., R. 5W.,<br>Section 5, NE $\frac{1}{2}$ SW $\frac{1}{2}$ , SW $\frac{1}{2}$ NW $\frac{1}{2}$ , W $\frac{1}{2}$ SW $\frac{1}{2}$ , NW $\frac{1}{2}$ SE $\frac{1}{2}$<br>Section 6, E $\frac{1}{2}$ SW $\frac{1}{2}$ , SE $\frac{1}{2}$ | 200.0<br>240.0<br><u>440.0</u> |
| 35.               | T. 4S., R. 5W.,<br>Section 31, Lots 3 & 4: SE $\frac{1}{2}$ , E $\frac{1}{2}$ SW $\frac{1}{2}$<br>Section 32, SW $\frac{1}{2}$ SW $\frac{1}{2}$  | 315.0<br>40.0<br><u>355.0</u>  |
| 43.               | T. 6S., R. 4W.,<br>Section 10, Lots 3, 9 & 10  | 117.9                          |
| 44.               | T. 9S., R. 4W.,<br>Section 15, NW $\frac{1}{2}$ SW $\frac{1}{2}$   | 40.0                           |
| 45.               | T. 9S., R. 4W.,<br>Section 21, NE $\frac{1}{2}$ SW $\frac{1}{2}$ , SE $\frac{1}{2}$ NW $\frac{1}{2}$   | 120.0                          |
| 46.               | T. 9S., R. 4W.,<br>Section 21, E $\frac{1}{2}$ E $\frac{1}{2}$   | 160.0                          |
| 49.               | T. 8S., R. 3W.,<br>Section 25, SW $\frac{1}{2}$ SW $\frac{1}{2}$   | 40.0                           |
| 51.               | T. 8S., R. 3W.,<br>Section 9, Lots 5-7   | 81.1                           |
| 52.               | T. 6S., R. 3W.,<br>Section 35, Lot 4   | 15.9                           |

| <u>Parcel No.</u> | <u>Legal Description</u>  | <u>Acres</u>  |
|-------------------|---|---------------|
| 53.               | All public lands within these sections.   |               |
|                   | T. 5S., R. 3W.,<br>Section 31, Lots 1-26  | 243.6         |
|                   | T. 6S., R. 3W.,<br>Section 4, Lots 1-4, 7-12  | 203.2         |
|                   | Section 5, Lots 1, 3-5, 7, 10-21  | 42.2          |
|                   | Section 6, Lots 1, 4-7, 17-25   | 142.8         |
|                   | Section 7, Lots 1-4, 8, 11-16, 20   | 221.5         |
|                   | Section 8, Lots 2, 7, 10-12, 14-17  | 16.1          |
|                   | Section 9, Lots 2-7, 9-21   | 74.4          |
|                   | Section 16, Parts of Lots 3, 8 & 18   | 77.0          |
|                   | Section 17, Parts of Lots 1-4, 6-8, 10, 11, 13: <del>W<math>\frac{1}{2}</math>S<math>\frac{1}{2}</math>W<math>\frac{1}{2}</math></del> , <del>S<math>\frac{1}{2}</math>W<math>\frac{1}{2}</math>N<math>\frac{1}{2}</math></del> | 349.0         |
|                   | Section 20, Parts of Lots 1-16: <del>W<math>\frac{1}{2}</math>W<math>\frac{1}{2}</math></del>   | 444.0         |
|                   | Section 21, Parts of Lots 2, 4, 6-16  | 214.0         |
|                   |   | <u>2027.8</u> |
| 69.               | T. 6S., R. 2W.,<br>Section 7, NE $\frac{1}{2}$ NW $\frac{1}{2}$ , N $\frac{1}{2}$ NE $\frac{1}{2}$ , N $\frac{1}{2}$ S $\frac{1}{2}$ NE $\frac{1}{2}$   | 100.0         |
| 70.               | T. 4S., R. 1W.,<br>Section 19, Lot 20   | 39.7          |
|                   | Section 20, NW $\frac{1}{2}$ SW $\frac{1}{2}$   | 40.0          |
|                   | Section 29, N $\frac{1}{2}$ SW $\frac{1}{2}$ , S $\frac{1}{2}$ NW $\frac{1}{2}$   | 160.0         |
|                   | Section 30, Lots 1-4, E $\frac{1}{2}$ W $\frac{1}{2}$ , E $\frac{1}{2}$   | 138.9         |
|                   | T. 4S., R. 2W.,<br>Section 25, Lots 1, 4-6: N $\frac{1}{2}$ SW $\frac{1}{2}$ , NW $\frac{1}{2}$ , NW $\frac{1}{2}$ SE $\frac{1}{2}$   | 385.1         |
|                   | Section 26, Lots 5-7  | 71.7          |
|                   | Section 29, Lot 3   | 52.6          |
|                   | Section 33, NW $\frac{1}{2}$ NW $\frac{1}{2}$   | 40.0          |
|                   |   | <u>927.4</u>  |
| 71.               | T. 10S., R. 2W.,<br>All public lands within the township.   | Approx. 800.0 |
|                   | T. 10S., R. 3W.,<br>Sections 1, 12, 13, 24-26,<br>All public lands within these sections.   | Approx. 100.0 |
|                   |   | <u>900.0</u>  |
| 72.               | T. 7S., R. 1W.,<br>Section 28   | 640.0         |
| 73.               | T. 7S., R. 1W.,<br>Section 26, N $\frac{1}{2}$ NW $\frac{1}{2}$ , NW $\frac{1}{2}$ NE $\frac{1}{2}$   | 120.0         |

| <u>Parcel No.</u> | <u>Legal Description</u>   | <u>Acres</u>                   |
|-------------------|--|--------------------------------|
| 74.               | T. 7S., R. 1W.,<br>Section 17, NE $\frac{1}{2}$ SE $\frac{1}{2}$   | 40.0                           |
| 75.               | T. 7S., R. 1W.,<br>Section 6, SE $\frac{1}{2}$ SW $\frac{1}{2}$  | 40.0                           |
| 76.               | T. 6S., R. 1W.,<br>Section 25, SW $\frac{1}{2}$ NW $\frac{1}{2}$   | 40.0                           |
| 77.               | T. 6S., R. 1W.,<br>Section 20, SW $\frac{1}{2}$ NW $\frac{1}{2}$   | 40.0                           |
| 78.               | T. 5S., R. 1W.,<br>Section 29 SE $\frac{1}{2}$ SE $\frac{1}{2}$  | 40.0                           |
| 79.               | T. 4S., R. 1E.,<br>Section 15, Lots 3 & 4  | 14.2                           |
| 80.               | T. 8S., R. 1E.,<br>Section 15, NW $\frac{1}{2}$  | 160.0                          |
| 81.               | T. 9S., R. 1E.,<br>Section 8, E $\frac{1}{2}$ SE $\frac{1}{2}$ NW $\frac{1}{2}$  | 20.0                           |
| 82.               | T. 9S., R. 1E.,<br>Section 22  | Approx. 5.0                    |
| 83.               | T. 9S., R. 1E.<br>Section 27, E $\frac{1}{2}$ SW $\frac{1}{2}$ SW $\frac{1}{2}$ , SE $\frac{1}{2}$ SW $\frac{1}{2}$ , NE $\frac{1}{2}$ SE $\frac{1}{2}$ , S $\frac{1}{2}$ SE $\frac{1}{2}$<br>Section 34, N $\frac{1}{2}$ NE $\frac{1}{2}$ , W $\frac{1}{2}$ SW $\frac{1}{2}$ NE $\frac{1}{2}$ , W $\frac{1}{2}$ E $\frac{1}{2}$ SW $\frac{1}{2}$ NE $\frac{1}{2}$ | 180.0<br>110.0<br><u>290.0</u> |
| 92.               | T. 10S., R. 3E.,<br>Section 1, Lot 1   | 8.7                            |
| 98.               | T. 10S., R. 6E.,<br>Section 34, SW $\frac{1}{2}$ SE $\frac{1}{2}$  | 40.0                           |
| 101.              | T. 11S., R. 7E.,<br>Section 27, Lot 3  | 37.4                           |

| <u>Parcel No.</u> | <u>Legal Description</u>  | <u>Acres</u> |
|-------------------|---|--------------|
| 102.              | T. 11S., R. 8E.,<br>Section 6, SW $\frac{1}{4}$ NW $\frac{1}{4}$  | 40.0         |
| 105.              | T. 11S., R. 9E.,<br>Section 30, NW $\frac{1}{2}$ SE $\frac{1}{2}$   | 40.0         |
| 107.              | T. 1S., R. 1E.,<br>Section 24, NE $\frac{1}{2}$ SE $\frac{1}{2}$ , E $\frac{1}{2}$ NW $\frac{1}{2}$ SE $\frac{1}{2}$  | 50.0         |
| 108.              | T. 1S., R. 1E.,<br>Section 13, N $\frac{1}{2}$ SW $\frac{1}{2}$ SW $\frac{1}{2}$  | 20.0         |
| 109.              | T. 1S., R. 1E.,<br>Section 24, SW $\frac{1}{2}$ SW $\frac{1}{2}$ NE $\frac{1}{2}$ , All Public Land<br>in the NW $\frac{1}{2}$ SW $\frac{1}{2}$ NE $\frac{1}{2}$ , W $\frac{1}{2}$ NW $\frac{1}{2}$ SE $\frac{1}{2}$ , NE $\frac{1}{2}$ SW $\frac{1}{2}$ , NW $\frac{1}{2}$ SE $\frac{1}{2}$ SW $\frac{1}{2}$ | 75.0         |
| GRAND TOTAL       |   | 8,924.3      |

TABLE 2  
 AVAILABLE DISPOSAL AUTHORITIES  
 AND SURFACE-USE ASSUMPTIONS  
 FOR DISPOSAL PARCELS  
 PART 1: AVAILABLE DISPOSAL AUTHORITIES

MANAGE FOR DISPOSAL  
 UNDER ALL AVAILABLE  
 AUTHORITIES, INCLUDING  
 FLPMA SEC. 203 SALES  
 BY PARCEL NUMBER

---

MANAGE FOR DISPOSAL  
 UNDER ALL AVAILABLE  
 AUTHORITIES EXCEPT  
 FLPMA SEC. 203 SALES  
 BY PARCEL NUMBER

---

2  
 4  
 4a  
 6  
 8  
 11  
  
 14  
 17  
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 21  
 22  
 26a  
 29  
 31  
 35  
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13

69  
 70

TABLE 2  
 AVAILABLE DISPOSAL AUTHORITIES  
 AND SURFACE-USE ASSUMPTIONS  
 FOR DISPOSAL PARCELS  
 PART 2: SURFACE - USE ASSUMPTIONS  
 BY PARCEL NUMBER

| <u>AGRICULTURE</u> | <u>MINERAL<br/>DEVELOPMENT</u> | <u>COMMUNITY/<br/>PUBLIC PURPOSE</u> | <u>NO<br/>SURFACE<br/>CHANGE</u> |
|--------------------|--------------------------------|--------------------------------------|----------------------------------|
|                    |                                | 2                                    |                                  |
|                    |                                | 4                                    |                                  |
| 4a                 |                                |                                      | 4a                               |
|                    |                                | 6                                    |                                  |
| 8                  |                                |                                      |                                  |
|                    |                                | 11                                   |                                  |
|                    |                                | 13                                   | 13                               |
| 14                 |                                |                                      |                                  |
|                    |                                | 17                                   |                                  |
|                    |                                |                                      | 20                               |
|                    |                                |                                      | 21                               |
|                    |                                |                                      | 22                               |
|                    |                                | 26a                                  | 26a                              |
| 35                 |                                |                                      | 35                               |
|                    |                                | 43                                   | 43                               |
|                    |                                | 44                                   | 44                               |
|                    |                                |                                      | 45                               |
|                    |                                |                                      | 46                               |
|                    |                                |                                      | 49                               |
|                    |                                |                                      | 51                               |
|                    |                                |                                      | 52                               |
|                    | 52                             |                                      |                                  |
|                    | 53                             |                                      |                                  |
|                    |                                | 69                                   |                                  |
|                    |                                |                                      | 70                               |
|                    | 71                             |                                      |                                  |
|                    |                                | 72                                   | 72                               |
|                    |                                |                                      | 73                               |
|                    |                                |                                      | 74                               |
|                    |                                |                                      | 75                               |
|                    |                                |                                      | 76                               |
|                    |                                |                                      | 77                               |
|                    |                                |                                      | 78                               |
|                    |                                |                                      | 79                               |
| 80                 |                                |                                      |                                  |
| 81                 |                                |                                      |                                  |
| 82                 |                                |                                      |                                  |
|                    |                                | 83                                   | 83                               |
|                    |                                |                                      | 92                               |
|                    |                                |                                      | 98                               |
|                    |                                | 101                                  | 101                              |
|                    |                                |                                      | 102                              |
|                    |                                | 105                                  | 105                              |
|                    |                                | 107                                  |                                  |
|                    |                                | 108                                  |                                  |
|                    |                                | 109                                  |                                  |



TABLE 3  
 PARCELS AVAILABLE FOR DISPOSAL  
 SUBJECT TO LIMITATIONS  
 ON  
 PERSONS AND/OR PURPOSES

| <u>Parcel</u> | <u>Persons To</u>                          | <u>Purposes For</u>      |
|---------------|--|--------------------------|
| 2             | Wendover City                              | Landfill                 |
| 4             | Tooele County                              | Landfill                 |
| 6             | Tooele County                              | Landfill                 |
| 8             | Adjacent Landowner                         | Any                      |
| 13            | Iosepa Historical Association              | Historic Site            |
| 26a           | Tooele County                              | Landfill                 |
| 53            | Adjacent Landowners or<br>Mining Claimants | Any                      |
| 69            | City of Cedar Fort                         | Watershed and Recreation |
| 70            | Dept. of Defense                           | Military Reservation     |
| 71            | Adjacent Landowners or<br>Mining Claimants | Any                      |
| 98            | Forest Service                             | National Forest Land     |
| 107           | Salt Lake City or Forest Service           | Municipal Watershed      |
| 108           | Salt Lake City or Forest Service           | Municipal Watershed      |
| 109           | Salt Lake City or Forest Service           | Municipal Watershed      |

TABLE 4

## LANDS NOT AVAILABLE FOR OWNERSHIP ADJUSTMENT

|     | <u>Area</u>                       | <u>Acreage</u> |
|-----|-----------------------------------|----------------|
| 1.  | Deep Creek Area                   | 28,260 acres   |
| 2.  | Knolls Area                       | 36,160 acres   |
| 3.  | Cedar Mountains Area              | 74,680 acres   |
| 4.  | Dugway/Riverbed                   | 132,000 acres  |
| 5.  | Simpson Springs                   | 640 acres      |
| 6.  | Simpson Mt./Onaqui Mt./Big Hollow | 114,560 acres  |
| 7.  | White Rocks                       | 640 acres      |
| 8.  | Salt Mountain                     | 6,480 acres    |
| 9.  | Horseshoe Springs                 | 760 acres      |
| 10. | North Stansbury Mountains         | 12,000 acres   |
| 11. | Rush Lake Area                    | 1,120 acres    |
| 12. | Clover Reservoir Area             | 1,280 acres    |
| 13. | Ophir Canyon Area                 | 2,560 acres    |
| 14. | Bonneville Salt Flats*            | 30,680 acres   |
|     | TOTAL                             | 441,820 acres  |

\*Under protest, implementation pending outcome of protest.

resources present should be protected by a withdrawal.

Authorization of FAA's navigation sites by rights-of-way would reserve the land necessary for operation of facilities and would not encumber any unneeded land.

## Decision 6

Acquisition of private lands will be subject to the same criteria as those discussed under Decision 3.

BLM will pursue acquisition of the following lands in the vicinity of Rush Lake (see Figure 4).

|  |   |
|--|---|
| T. 4S., R. 5W.<br>Section 27, Lots 6,9,10 and 13<br>Section 34, S½SE¼, NE¼SE¼,<br>Section 35, W½W¼, NE¼SW¼ | (155 acres)<br>(120 acres)<br>(200 acres) |
|--|---|

|   |                            |
|---|----------------------------|
| T. 5S., R. 5W.<br>Section 2, W¼NW¼<br>Section 3, E½E½W¼ | ( 80 acres)<br>(480 acres) |
|---|----------------------------|

## Rationale

BLM periodically has a need to acquire lands or interests in other lands. Use of the criteria will allow BLM to acquire lands to increase its management efficiency and administration of lands with high public values.

Acquisition of the lands identified at Rush Lake would consolidate ownership and allow BLM to better implement its management objectives for these areas.

## Decision 7

BLM will acquire and/or legalize access to the following areas (see Figure 4).

| <u>Area</u>  | <u>Identified Routes</u>                        |
|--------------|---|
| Barlow Creek | T. 5S., R. 7W.<br>Section 31 and 32 (through)   |
|              | T. 6S., R. 7W.<br>Section 6 (through)           |
| Clifton Flat | T. 8S., R. 17W.<br>Sections 16 and 17 (through) |
|              | T. 8S., R. 18W.<br>Sections 23 and 24 (through) |
| Rocky Canyon | T. 10S., R. 19W.<br>Section 22 (through)        |

|                 |  |
|-----------------|--|
| Farnsworth Peak | T. 2S., R. 4W.<br>Sections 13 and 14 (through) |
|-----------------|--|

|                  |   |
|------------------|---|
| Onaqui Mountains | T. 6S., R. 6W.,<br>Section 16 (through) |
|------------------|---|

|  |  |
|--|--|
|  | T. 7S., R. 6W.,<br>Section 2 (through) |
|--|--|

|  |   |
|--|---|
|  | T. 6S., R. 7W.,<br>Sections 35 and 36 (through) |
|--|---|

|                          |   |
|--------------------------|---|
| Sheep Rock/Simpson Mtns. | T. 9S., R. 7W.<br>Sections 7, 18, 19 and 30 (through) |
|--------------------------|---|

|  |   |
|--|---|
|  | T. 9S., R. 8W.<br>Sections 32-34 and 36 (through) |
|--|---|

|  |  |
|--|--|
|  | T. 10S., R. 7W.<br>Sections 5, 17, 18 and 20 (through) |
|--|--|

|                        |                                       |
|------------------------|---------------------------------------|
| Knolls Recreation Area | T. 1S., R. 13W.<br>Sections 14 and 23 |
|------------------------|---------------------------------------|

|               |                                   |
|---------------|-----------------------------------|
| West Mountain | T. 9S., R. 1E.<br>Section 14, NW¼ |
|---------------|-----------------------------------|

|                         |   |
|-------------------------|---|
| Kyune/Reservation Ridge | T. 11S., R. 9E.<br>Section 23,<br>Section 26, (through)<br>Section 35 |
|-------------------------|---|

|  |   |
|--|---|
| Broad Canyon (East side of Stansbury Mtns) | T. 2S., R. 6W.<br>Section 7-9 (through) |
|--|---|

|              |  |
|--------------|--|
| Bates Canyon | T. 2S., R. 4W.<br>Sections 25 and 26 (through) |
|--------------|--|

|                             |                              |
|-----------------------------|------------------------------|
| Stansbury Island gravel pit | T. 1N., R. 6W.<br>Section 28 |
|-----------------------------|------------------------------|

|   |                                     |
|---|-------------------------------------|
| Salt Mountain Area (West side of Stansbury Mtns.) | T. 2S., R. 7W.<br>Section 31        |
|   | T. 2S., R. 8W.<br>Section 25 and 35 |

|  |                             |
|--|-----------------------------|
|  | T. 3S., R. 7W.<br>Section 7 |
|--|-----------------------------|

|  |                                       |
|--|---------------------------------------|
|  | T. 3S., R. 8W.<br>Section 1, 2 and 12 |
|--|---------------------------------------|

## Rationale

Access is a vital part of BLM's multiple use management scheme. This decision will allow BLM to obtain access over existing roads to areas of important resource values and/or developed facilities. The routes identified above are preliminary. BLM will conduct a route analysis to determine if an acceptable route across public land is available. If an acceptable route across public land is available, access across public land will not be required.

Maintenance Change No. 14-1

RMP MAINTENANCE SHEET

Plan Name Pony Express RMP Area Pony Express

LOCATION OF CHANGE

Page No. 14a Paragraph No. 1 Line No. 1

CHANGE

Insert: Decision 8

BLM will continue to consider applications from non-profit corporations and associations, the State, or any of its political subdivisions for recreation or public purposes (R&PP).

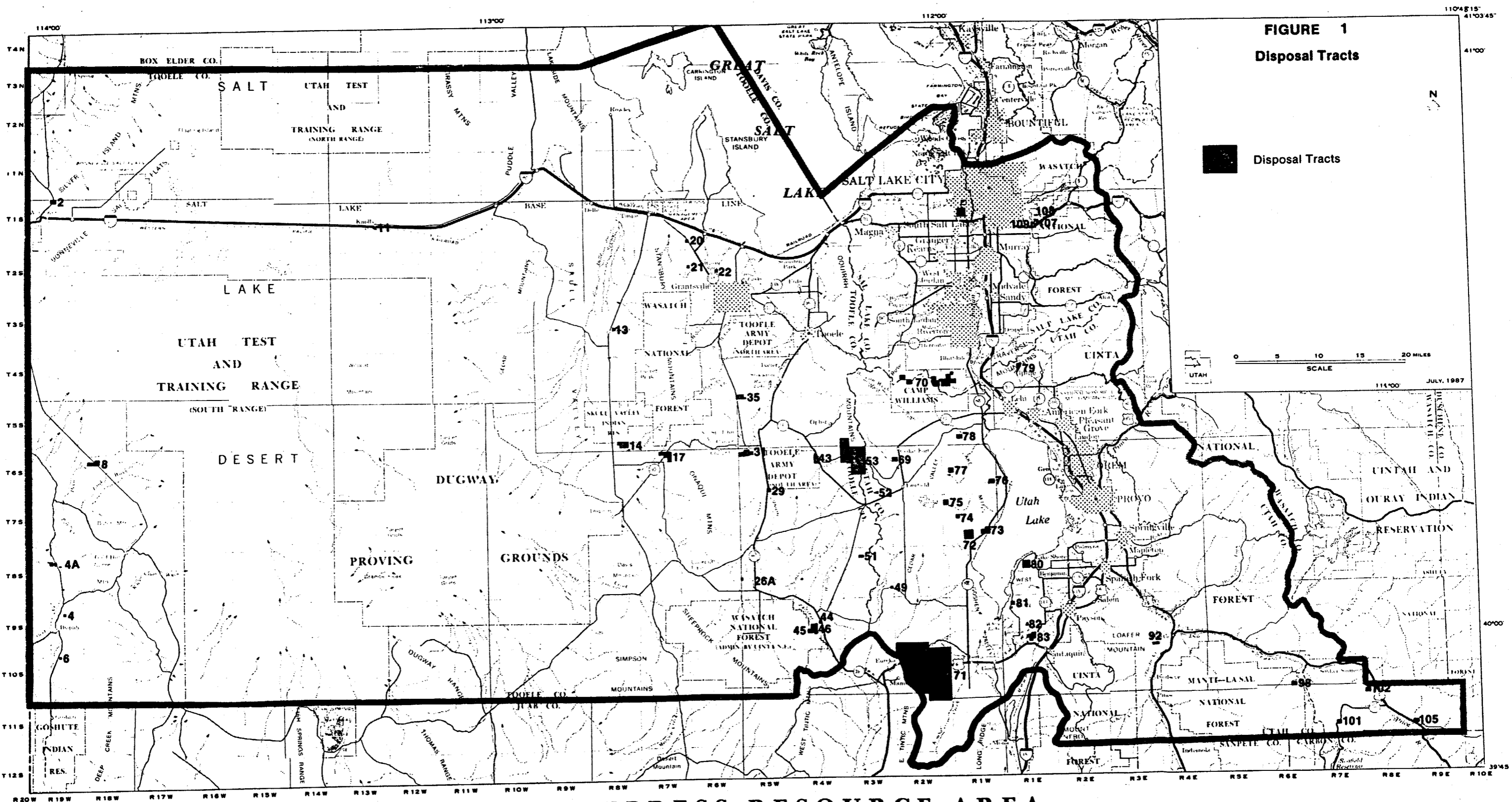
BLM would continue to review and approve applications for easements, permits, licenses, or ~~other~~ nonexclusive use authorizations.

REASON

BLM is mandated to manage the public land for multiple resource uses. The R&PP Act and Section 302 of the Federal Land Policy and Management Act of 1976 has allowed the use occupancy, and development of public lands.

SIGNATURE AS APPROPRIATE

Program Leader Don S. Noegle Date 4-23-90  
Environmental Coordinator Alice Stephenson Date 4-23-90  
Area Manager Howard Hedrick Date 04-26-90



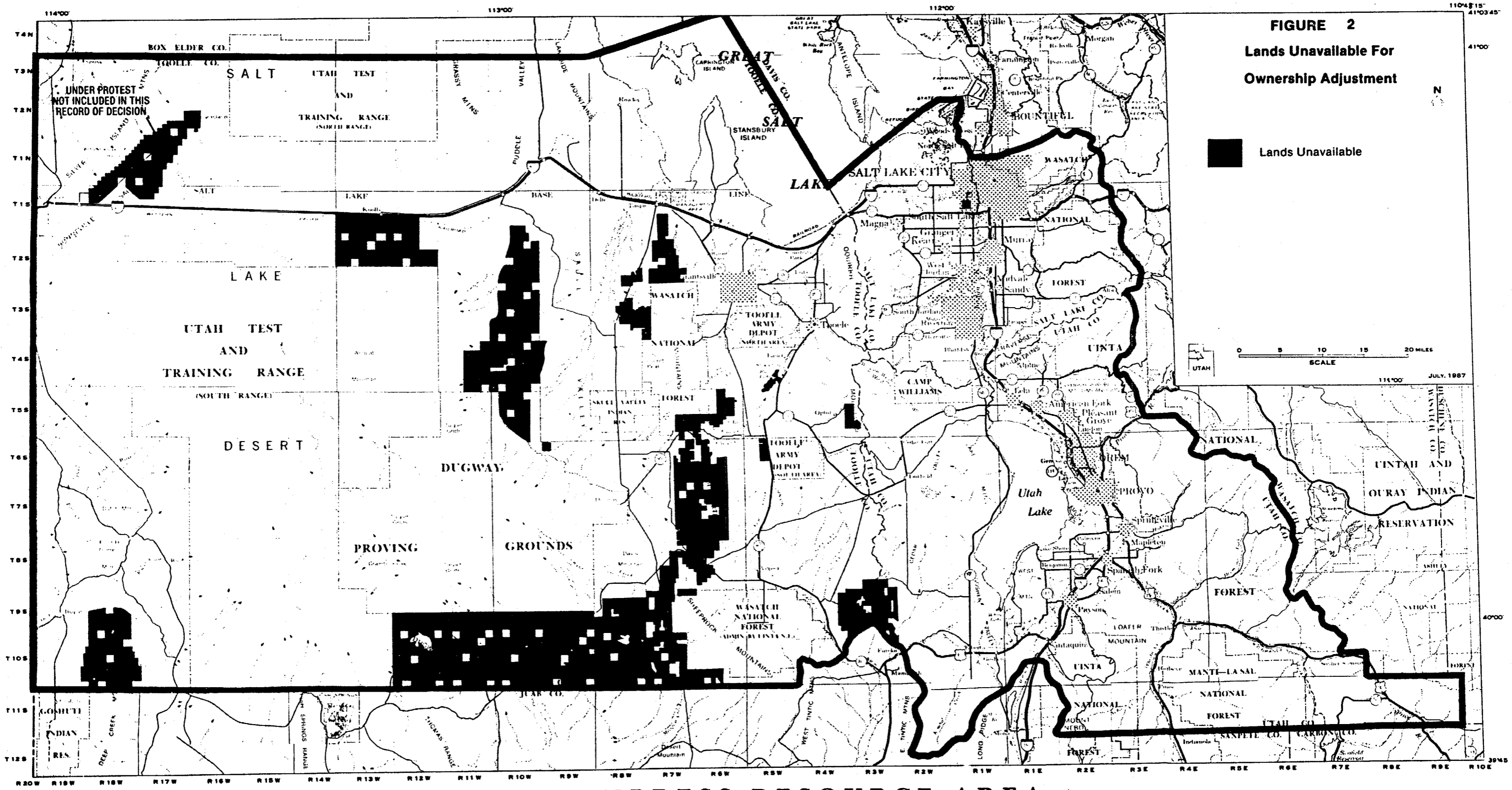
**FIGURE 1**  
**Disposal Tracts**

■ Disposal Tracts

0 5 10 15 20 MILES  
SCALE

JULY, 1987

**PONY EXPRESS RESOURCE AREA**  
**SALT LAKE DISTRICT**



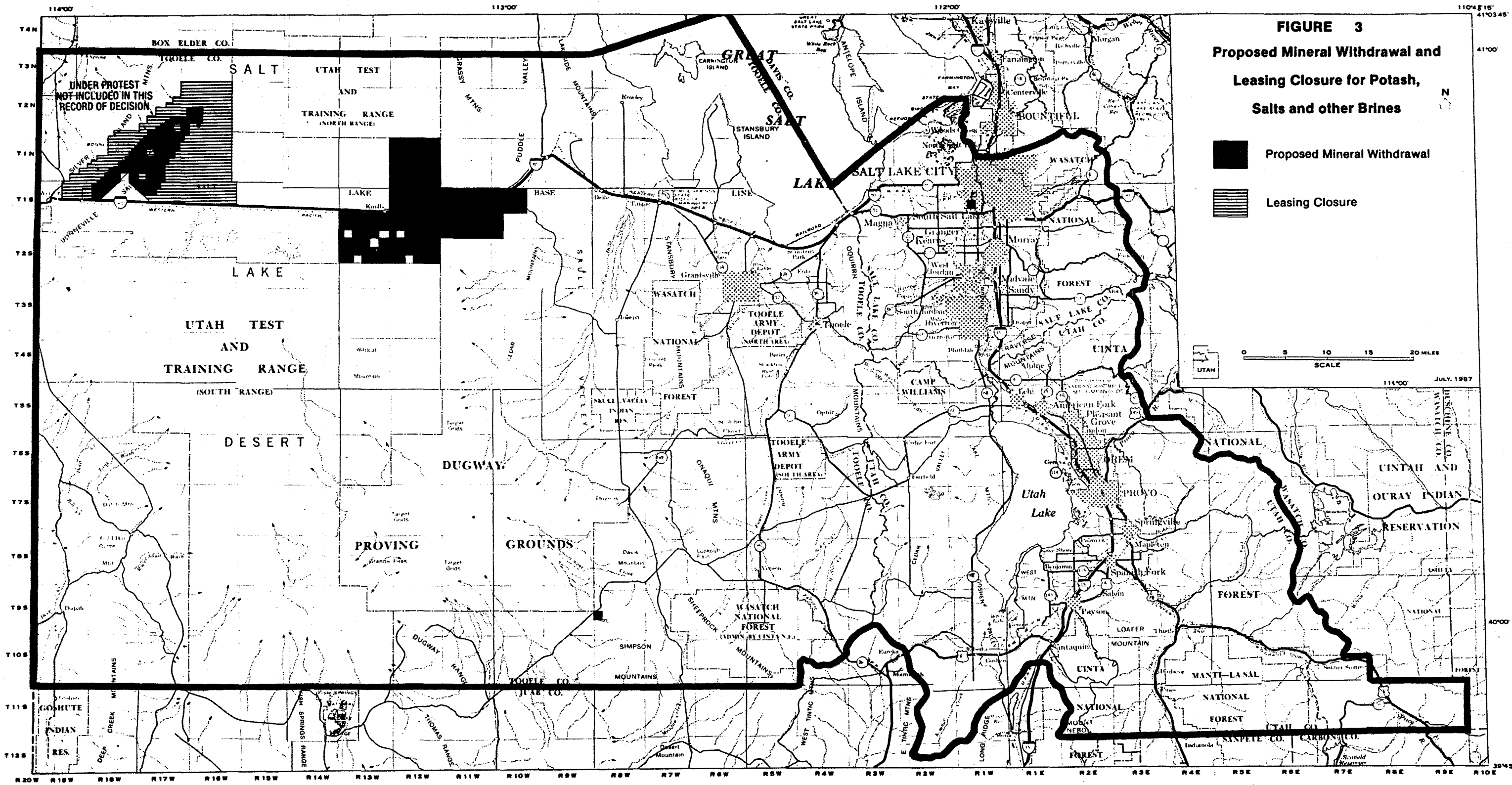
**FIGURE 2**  
**Lands Unavailable For**  
**Ownership Adjustment**

■ Lands Unavailable

0 5 10 15 20 MILES  
 SCALE

JULY, 1987

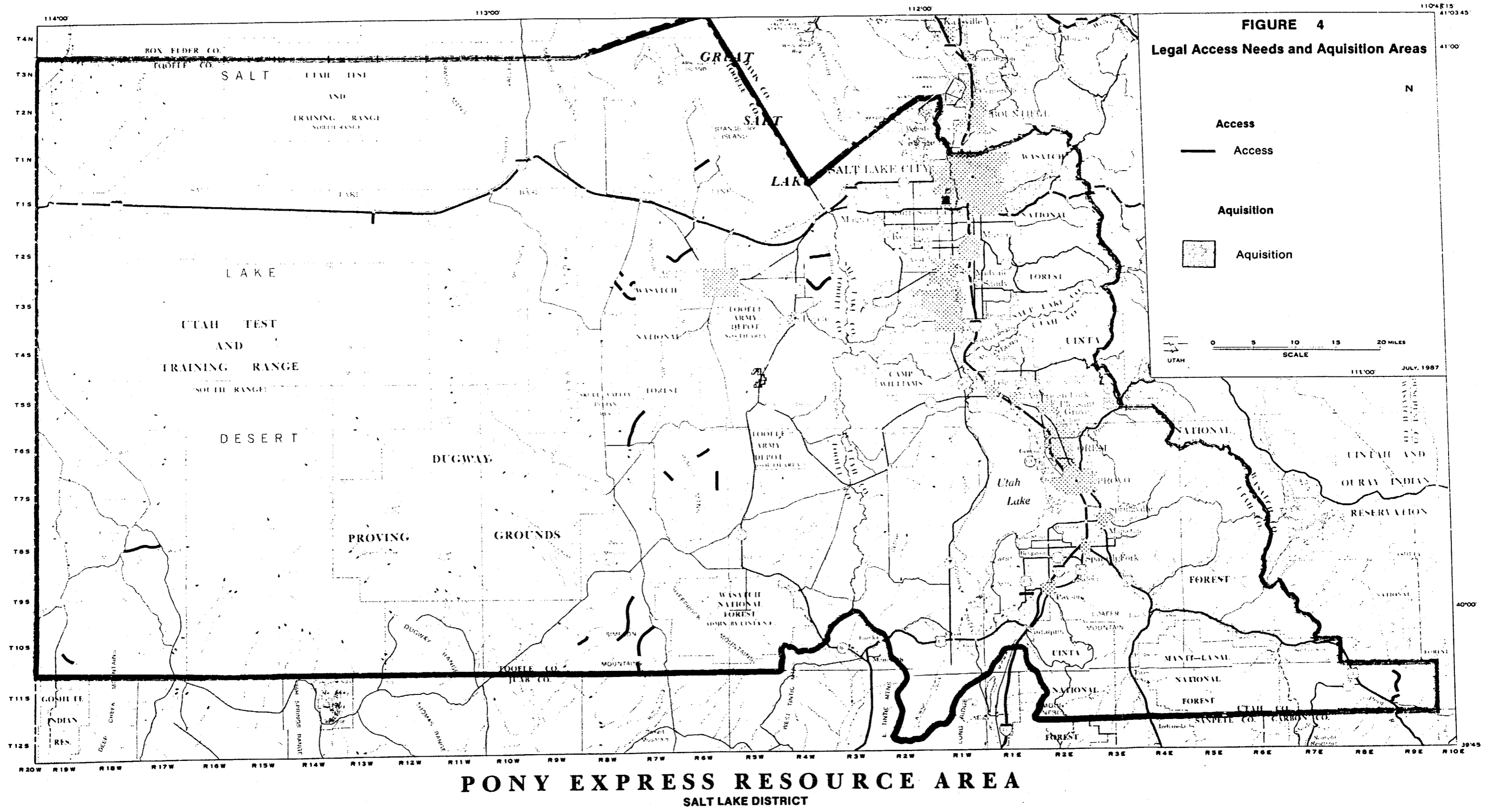
**PONY EXPRESS RESOURCE AREA**  
**SALT LAKE DISTRICT**



**FIGURE 3**  
**Proposed Mineral Withdrawal and**  
**Leasing Closure for Potash,**  
**Salts and other Brines**

Proposed Mineral Withdrawal  
 Leasing Closure

**PONY EXPRESS RESOURCE AREA**  
**SALT LAKE DISTRICT**





# MINERALS PROGRAM

## Priorities

High priority will be given to actions resulting from public initiated proposals.

## Decision 1

BLM will continue to process applications for the removal of common variety mineral materials, including sand and gravel, on a case-by-case basis as regulated under 43 CFR 3600. Stipulations to protect surface values will be required based on review of each proposal.

## Rationale

This is BLM's current policy for managing common variety minerals in the Pony Express Resource Area and was part of the Features Common to All Alternatives section in the Draft RMP/EIS.

## Decision 2

Categorize the Federal mineral estate in the Pony Express Resource Area for fluid mineral leasing as follows:

|   | <u>Acres</u> |
|---|--------------|
| Category 1 (open)                           | 1,750,735    |
| Category 2 (open with special stipulations) | 245,857      |
| Category 3 (no surface occupancy)           | 77,003       |
| Category 4 (closed)                         | 0            |

Table 5 describes the areas and/or resources included in the fluid mineral leasing categories. These areas are shown in Figure 5.

The following special stipulations used in Category 2 areas are in addition to the lease terms and standard stipulations, and are necessary to protect specific resource values on the lease area:

(1) In order to protect crucial mule deer winter range, exploration, drilling and other development activity will be allowed only from April 16 to November 30 and not allowed from December 1 to April 15. This limitation does not apply to maintenance and operation of producing wells. This stipulation affects 64,353 acres.

Specific exceptions may be granted by BLM if the proposed activity will not seriously disturb wildlife habitat values being protected. This determination will be made by a BLM wildlife biologist in coordination with the UDWR and, if appropriate, the USFWS. Such a determination may result if unseasonably warm weather accounts for the lack of use of mule deer winter range. Therefore, the lack of mule deer present on the traditional winter range would allow for such disturbing activities for fluid mineral leasing and exploration.

(2) In order to protect crucial raptor nesting sites, exploration, drilling and other development activity within 0.5 mile radius of the sites will be allowed from July 16 to February 28, and not allowed from March 1 through July 15. This limitation does not apply to maintenance and operation of producing wells. This stipulation affects 79,300 acres.

Specific exceptions may be granted by the BLM if the proposed activity will not seriously disturb wildlife habitat values being protected. This determination will be made by a BLM wildlife biologist in coordination with the UDWR and, if appropriate, the USFWS. Such a determination may result if the raptor nest in question is not active at the time of proposed activity. Quite often raptors will have alternate nesting sites available. If a raptor pair is using such an alternate site, it would be necessary to protect the inactive nest from disturbing activities for fluid mineral leasing and exploration. However, it should be noted that all eagle nests, active or inactive are protected by the Eagle Act and must be left intact and cannot be removed from their original location.

(3) In order to protect crucial sage grouse breeding complexes, exploration, drilling and other development activity within 0.5 mile radius of the complexes will be allowed from June 16 to March 14 and not allowed from March 15 through June 15. This limitation does not apply to maintenance and operation of producing wells. This stipulation affects 16,900 acres.

Specific exceptions may be granted by the BLM if the proposed activity will not seriously disturb wildlife habitat values being protected. This determination will be made by a BLM wildlife biologist in coordination with the UDWR and, if appropriate, the USFWS. Such a determination

TABLE 5  
FLUID MINERAL LEASING CATEGORIES

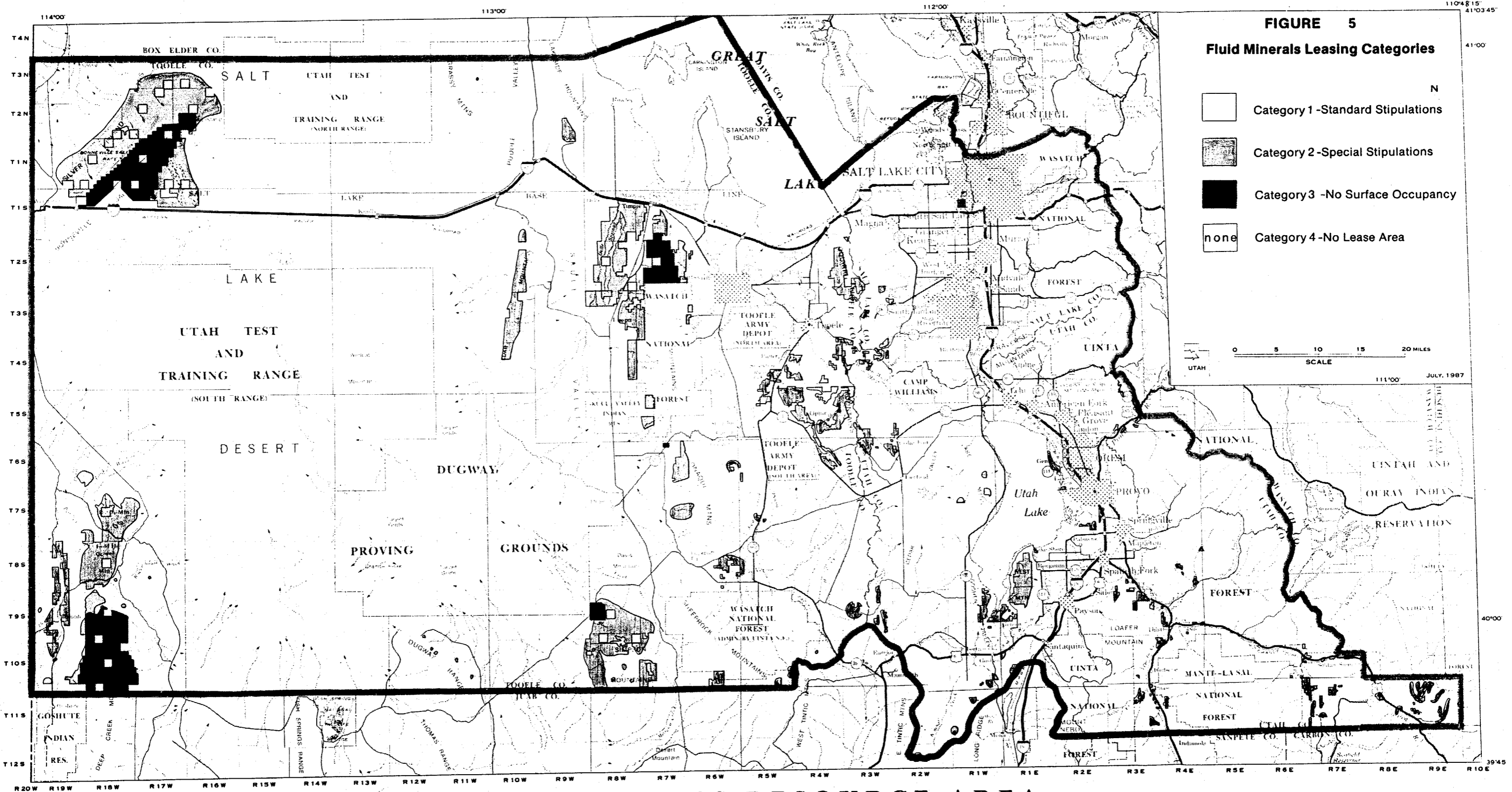
| <u>AREAS</u>                               | CAT. 2<br>REFERENCE<br>CODE*1 | <u>CAT.1</u>     | <u>CAT.2</u>   | <u>CAT.3</u>  | <u>CAT.4</u> |
|--|-------------------------------|------------------|----------------|---------------|--------------|
| Mule Deer Crucial Winter Range             | 1                             |                  | 64,353         |               |              |
| Elk Crucial Winter Range                   | 2                             |                  | 12,790         |               |              |
| Elk Calving                                | 3                             |                  | 825            |               |              |
| Pronghorn Fawning                          | 4                             |                  | 9,965          |               |              |
| Riparian/Wetland Areas<br>(1200 feet)      | 5                             |                  | 49,635         | 6,228         |              |
| Sage Grouse Strutting Grounds<br>(.5 mi.)  | 6                             |                  | 16,900         |               |              |
| Mule Deer Fawning                          | 7                             |                  | 3,530          |               |              |
| Crucial Deer Summer Range                  | 7                             |                  | 1,660          |               |              |
| Bald Eagle Roosts                          | 8                             |                  | 15,188         |               |              |
| Raptor Nest Sites (.5 mi.)                 | 9                             |                  | 79,300         |               |              |
| VRM Class II                               | 10                            |                  | 8,720          | 32,863        |              |
| VRM Class III                              | 10                            |                  | 143,277        |               |              |
| Deep Creek Mountains<br>without Wilderness |                               |                  |                | 28,260        |              |
| Stansbury Mountains<br>without Wilderness  |                               |                  |                | 10,000        |              |
| Bonneville Salt Flats                      |                               |                  |                | 30,203        |              |
| Simpson Springs Campground                 |                               |                  |                | 2,173         |              |
| Wendover Vicinity                          |                               |                  |                | 324           |              |
| Terra Vicinity                             |                               |                  |                | 280           |              |
| Middle Canyon                              |                               |                  |                | 112           |              |
| Ophir Canyon                               |                               |                  |                | 124           |              |
| Watershed                                  |                               |                  |                | 320           |              |
| <br>GRAND TOTALS*2                         |                               | <u>1,732,095</u> | <u>245,857</u> | <u>77,003</u> | <u>0</u>     |

\*1 Applies only to lands designated in Category 2.

\*2 Columns may not add up because of overlap.

REFERENCE CODES

- (1) No activity from December 1 to April 15.
- (2) No activity from December 1 to April 30.
- (3) No activity from May 1 to June 30.
- (4) No activity from April 15 to July 1.
- (5) No activity from with 1,200 feet of water.
- (6) No activity within 0.5 mile from March 15 to June 15.
- (7) No activity from April 15 to July 31.
- (8) No activity from November 1 to March 31.
- (9) No activity within 0.5 mile from March 1 to July 15.
- (10) No degradation of scenic values.



**FIGURE 5**

**Fluid Minerals Leasing Categories**

- Category 1 - Standard Stipulations
- Category 2 - Special Stipulations
- Category 3 - No Surface Occupancy
- Category 4 - No Lease Area



**PONY EXPRESS RESOURCE AREA**  
SALT LAKE DISTRICT

may result if the sage grouse complex has remained inactive over a period of years and it is determined by the BLM and DWR that the population no longer used the complex and no longer requires protection from disturbing activities for fluid mineral leasing and exploration.

(4) In order to protect visual resources in VRM Class II and III areas, activities in these areas will be located and designed in a way to meet Class II and III management criteria. This limitation does not apply to maintenance and operation of producing wells. If the lessee can demonstrate that operations can take place without impact to the resource being protected, an exemption to this stipulation may be granted, if approved in writing by the authorized officer in consultation with the District's VRM specialist. For Class II areas exemptions may be granted whereby changes due to the proposed action repeat the basic elements of form, line, color, and texture found in the predominant natural features of the characteristic landscape. For Class III areas exemptions may be granted whereby changes due to the proposed action repeat the basic elements found in the predominant natural features of the characteristic landscape. This may be achieved through reclamation, topographic or vegetative screening, construction practices and use of non-reflective paints which blend into the viewscape for buildings, tanks, and pipelines.

(5) In order to protect riparian habitat and municipal and non-municipal watershed areas, no occupancy or other surface disturbance will be allowed within 1,200 feet of live water. This limitation does not apply to maintenance and operation of producing wells. If the lessee can demonstrate that operations can take place without impact to the resource being protected, an exemption to this stipulation may be granted, if approved in writing by the authorized officer in consultation with the District's watershed specialist. For example, exemptions may be allowed where the riparian zone or the hydrologic influence area of phreatophytes exists less than 1,200 feet from live water.

(6) In order to protect crucial antelope fawning areas, exploration, drilling and other development activity will be allowed only from July 2 to April 14 and not allowed from April 15 to July 1. This limitation does not apply to maintenance and

operation of producing wells. Specific exceptions may be granted by the BLM if the proposed activity will not seriously disturb wildlife habitat values being protected. This determination will be made by a BLM wildlife biologist in coordination with the UDWR and, if appropriate, the USFWS. Such a determination may result if fawning is completed early and the fawning area is abandoned earlier to allow for disturbing activities for fluid mineral leasing and exploration to start earlier than July 1. This stipulation affects 9,965 acres.

(7) In order to protect crucial mule deer summer/fawning areas, exploration, drilling and other development activity will be allowed only from August 1 to April 14 and not allowed from April 15 to July 31. This limitation does not apply to maintenance and operation of producing wells. Specific exceptions may be granted by the BLM if the proposed activity will not seriously disturb wildlife habitat values being protected. This determination will be made by a BLM wildlife biologist in coordination with the UDWR and, if appropriate, the USFS. Such a determination may result if fawning is completed early and the fawning area is abandoned earlier to allow for disturbing activities for fluid mineral leasing and exploration to start earlier than July 31. This stipulation affect 3,530 acres.

(8) In order to protect crucial elk calving areas, exploration, drilling and other development activity will be allowed only from July 1 to April 30 and not allowed from May 1 to June 30. This limitation does not apply to maintenance and operation of producing wells. Specific exceptions may be granted by the BLM if the proposed activity will not seriously disturb wildlife habitat values being protected. This determination will be made by a BLM wildlife biologist in coordination with the UDWR and, if appropriate, the USFWS. Such a determination may result if calving is completed early and the calving area is abandoned earlier to allow for disturbing activities for fluid mineral leasing and exploration to start earlier than June 30. This stipulation affects 825 acres.

(9) In order to protect crucial elk winter range, exploration, drilling and other development activity will be allowed only from May 1 to November 30 and not allowed from December 1 to April 30. This limitation does not apply to maintenance and operation of producing wells. Specific exceptions

may be granted by the BLM if the proposed activity will not seriously disturb wildlife habitat values being protected. This determination will be made by a BLM wildlife biologist in coordination with the UDWR and, if appropriate, the USFWS. Such a determination may result if unseasonably warm weather accounts for the lack of use of elk winter range. Therefore, the lack of elk present on the traditional winter range would allow for such disturbing activities for fluid mineral leasing and exploration. This stipulation affects 12,790 acres.

(10) In order to protect bald eagle roost sites, exploration, drilling and other development activity within .5 mile radius of the sites will be allowed only from March 16 to November 14 and not allowed from November 15 to March 15. This limitation does not apply to maintenance and operation of producing wells. Specific exceptions may be granted by the BLM if the proposed activity will not seriously disturb wildlife habitat values being protected. This determination will be made by a BLM wildlife biologist in coordination with the UDWR and the USFWS. Such a determination may result if the roost site no longer exists or other roost sites are found to have taken over in importance to the bald eagles present to allow for disturbing activities for fluid mineral leasing and exploration. This stipulation affects 15,188 acres.

Due to the West Desert Pumping Project and Amax Corporation's evaporation ponds, major areas of public land will be subject to intermittent flooding. Therefore, all leasing of both solid and fluid minerals will be subject to these rights-of-way as delineated on the Master Title Plats. Lessees should be aware that exploration and development may include specific mitigation to protect the project's integrity. This mitigation could greatly increase the lessee's cost.

### **Rationale**

To be consistent with the national energy policy, the Pony Express Resource Area has been categorized so that the Federal mineral estate in the area will be in the least restrictive category which would adequately protect the resources. Areas containing the most valuable, rare, and/or unique resource values were placed in more restrictive categories, where conflicts could be

mitigated by using special stipulations and/or allowing no surface occupancy.

The acreage listed above for each category differs from those averages stated in the preferred alternative of the Draft RMP/EIS due to calculation errors. The areas themselves have not been changed and therefore the analysis remains appropriate.

### **Decision 3**

**This entire decision is under protest and cannot be implemented until the protest is resolved.**

**The closure of 104,814 acres of Federal mineral estate within the Bonneville Salt Flat Recreation Area will continue until further studies clearly indicate that the closure could be modified without disrupting the natural hydrologic pattern of the entire basin north of I-80. Once definitive information is available, BLM will reevaluate the existing activities (including existing leases) on and adjacent to the Salt Flats. Future activities to be allowed will be based on the results of that evaluation.**

**This closure affects further mineral leasing for potash, salts, and other similar brines. This closure does not affect existing leases, including Reilly's leases, so long as they remain in effect and all lease requirements are met.**

### **Rationale**

The purpose of this closure is to protect the Bonneville Salt Flats from possible damage that could result from extraction of brines. The closure will protect the area until sufficient scientific information is available to determine whether the closure area should remain the same, be expanded, reduced, or eliminated.

Leases held by Reilly Tar and Chemical Company within the closure area are valid existing leases that are not affected by the closure.

### **Decision 4**

Applications to remove other types of leasable minerals, such as phosphate, tar sands, and oil shale will continue to be processed on a case-by-case basis. Stipulations to protect important

surface values will be required based on review of each proposal. Coal exploration and development, if any, would be regulated under 43 CFR 3400.

## **Rationale**

This procedure has worked satisfactorily in the past and is appropriate for future actions. Development of these minerals has been minimal to date and known reserves of these minerals are small in the Pony Express Resource Area.

## **Decision 5**

Approximately 89,840 acres are proposed to be withdrawn from locatable mineral entry. This withdrawal will protect 37,760 acres at the Knolls off-road vehicle area which is planned to be developed for recreation use. The remaining 52,080 acres will be withdrawn for potential industrial development (Figure 3). As previously mentioned, BLM would continue to pursue mineral withdrawals for Simpson Springs.

## **Rationale**

The Knolls area possesses unique territorial character which complements the recreation and visual programs. Sand dunes are found throughout the area which provide excellent visual and recreational settings. Located along the I-80 travel corridor, thousands of vehicles pass through the zone yearly. Visual sensitivity is expected to grow higher in the future where the public will oppose adjacent visual intrusions. Currently the visual resource management class is a IV which requires that management activities minimize the impacts through careful location, minimal disturbances and repeating the basic elements. As visual sensitivity becomes more of an issue, VRM classifications will be reevaluated to determine whether it should be classified as VRM III or II.

Health and safety of recreation users is one of the main objectives of BLM's recreation program. With the proposed delineation of the Knolls Special Recreation Management Area, safety is a primary concern for current and future uses. Off-road vehicles dominate the setting which offers excellent opportunities to recreationists. Withdrawing the area from mineral entry would help protect and perpetuate this recreational

setting. This would minimize potential injury to users from surface disturbances or equipment.

The withdrawal will also help maintain the availability of minerals needed for potential industrial development in the area.

The Simpson Springs recreation area is a developed recreation site with running water, camp units and vault toilets. The area supports a variety of recreational activities: camping, sightseeing, historical interpretation, off-road vehicle riding, hiking, hunting, exploring and scouting activities. Safety and visual qualities are primary objectives in the recreation program for this site. Mineral withdrawal would facilitate these objectives and compliment quality recreational experiences of the user public. This withdrawal stems from prior decisions in the Tooele County MFP (1984) and will be carried on through this RMP.

# **HAZARDOUS WASTE MANAGEMENT**

## **Decision 1**

BLM will evaluate the known or unknown existing hazardous waste sites and take necessary actions as required by law. BLM will not authorize placement or processing of hazardous wastes on public lands. As unknown existing sites are identified and accidental or intentional dumping or spills occur, BLM will respond as required by law and pursue clean-up by the responsible party. Public health and safety and the environment will continue to be BLM's priority in this program.

## **Rationale**

It is BLM policy that no further authorizations will be made for the treatment, storage or disposal of hazardous waste on public lands. Public lands may be made available for such uses but only after such lands are transferred from public ownership. This policy is supported by three Federal laws: Resource Conservation and Recovery Act as amended (RCRA), Comprehensive Environmental Response Compensation and Liability Act as amended (CERCLA) and the Superfund Amendments and Reauthorization Act (SARA).

# SOIL, WATER, AND AIR PROGRAM

## Priorities

Highest priority will be given to actions required to comply with existing federal and state laws and bureau authorities (ie. riparian areas) governing these resources.

### Decision 1

All actions that would involve soil, water, and air resources will continue to be evaluated on a case-by-case basis. Evaluations will consider the impacts of any proposed actions to soil, water, and air resources in the affected area. Stipulations will be attached as appropriate to ensure compatibility of actions with soil, water, and air resource management and compliance with applicable Federal and State soil, water or air implementation plans.

Soil will be managed to maintain productivity and tolerable erosion levels.

Water quality will be maintained or improved in accordance with State and Federal standards, including consultation with State agencies on proposed actions that may significantly affect water quality.

## Rationale

The Clean Water Act, the Soil Conservation Act, and the Clean Air Act set objectives for these resources and give requirements to be met. BLM is required by law to comply with these acts.

### Decision 2

BLM will acquire and protect water rights for use on public land and maintain them in cooperation with the State Water Engineer. Existing water rights will be evaluated to determine whether they are adequate in quantity and location to meet resource management requirements. Water rights records will be placed in a computer program for rapid access and update. Future resource management requirements may result in the need to change existing water rights and acquire

additional water rights. Private water rights and water right applications on public lands will be evaluated to assure that necessary water is available for public use.

## Rationale

Water rights are required by the State for any and all uses of water except for Public Water Reserve 107 waters. Generally, water demand exceeds supply and creates conflict between users. Water rights allow proper development and use of the water resource by water rights holders.

### Decision 3

BLM will monitor selected perennial streams for water quality trend to insure that management activities on public lands comply with existing State water quality standards. BLM management activities will be coordinated with the Utah State Water Engineer, the Utah Division of Environmental Health, and the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency for proper water management.

## Rationale

Perennial streams are important water sources for wildlife, livestock, aquatic habitat, agricultural and domestic use. Water quality suitable to such uses needs to be maintained to ensure that these water sources continue to be available in the future. Executive Order 12088, Federal Compliance with Pollution Control Standards, dated October 24, 1978, directed that all Federal agencies comply with local standards and limitations relating to water quality.

### Decision 4

Areas of erosion on public land will be identified and evaluated to meet the following objectives:

- Identify erosion source(s) on public land.
- Evaluate improvement potential and prioritize areas for improvement.

- Identify methods which will maintain or improve water and vegetative resources while providing for livestock and wildlife.
- Identify and implement management practices which will reduce or eliminate erosion that accelerates soil loss over that occurring naturally.
- Monitor vegetation and water conditions on the watershed.

## Rationale

In several drainage areas that are generally within a slight to moderate erosion condition class, erosion could accelerate if preventative and corrective actions are not taken. BLM is mandated by numerous laws including FLPMA, the Clean Water Act, and the Soil Conservation Act (1935) to maintain or improve the overall watershed quality including the water and vegetative resources.

## Decision 5

BLM will manage riparian areas, wetlands, and other water sources for multiple use purposes such as wildlife, range, watershed and recreation. These areas will be managed to meet the following objectives:

- Each area will be identified and classified for present condition.
- Management intensity levels will be determined and objectives developed for each area based on desired condition.
- The areas will be prioritized for funding and preparation of activity plans. These could include watershed, allotment, habitat and multiple

resource management plans.

- Seek cooperative efforts with adjoining landowners and other resource management agencies.

## Rationale

Riparian areas are an important resource for many land use activities. As a consequence, riparian areas become highly controversial, requiring intensive management. BLM is mandated by Executive Order 11990 and manual requirements to manage these areas for multiple use while providing for protection and improvement of the areas.

## Decision 6

Management actions with floodplains and wetlands will include measures to preserve, protect, and if necessary, restore their natural functions (as required by Executive Orders 11988 and 11990). Management techniques will be used to minimize the degradation of stream banks and the loss of riparian vegetation. Bridges, culverts, fences and other necessary structures will be designed and installed to meet and maintain management objectives.

BLM will manage the portions of Rush Lake occurring on public land as a wetland over the long term.

## Rationale

Executive Orders 11988 and 11990, Floodplain Management, require that floodplains and flood hazards be considered in all public land management. Appropriate management actions to reduce loss of life and property are required. Records verify that Rush Lake periodically fluctuates from being a sizable lake to being almost dry. Such fluctuations have occurred over a period as short as four years.

## Decision 7

Air quality will be maintained or improved in accordance with State and Federal standards,



including consultation with State agencies on proposed projects that may significantly affect air quality. Management actions on public land will be designed to protect against significant air quality deterioration.

Close coordination will be maintained with the State in the development or modification of air quality implementation plans to assure that BLM management options such as prescribed fire and smoke management are maintained.

Coordination with the State will be continued on appropriate air quality classifications whenever BLM-managed areas of special concern (e.g. ACECs, wilderness study areas, and scenic areas) have been identified as significant features or characters.

**Rationale**

The Clean Air Act outlines the objectives and requirements that BLM must follow when managing public lands. This decision helps BLM meet these requirements.

**RANGE PROGRAM**

**Priorities**

High priority will be given to the preparation of AMPs as outlined in Table 6. High priority will be given to the cancellation of the small, isolated allotments in Utah County.

**Decision 1**

Total forage use by grazing users on public land in Tooele County will continue to be:

|                 |            |      |
|-----------------|------------|------|
| Cattle          | 39,173     | AUMs |
| Sheep           | 67,001     | AUMs |
| Domestic Horses | 125        | AUMs |
| Wild Horses     | 1,560      | AUMs |
| Mule Deer       | 29,853     | AUMs |
| Elk             | 470        | AUMs |
| Antelope        | 1,518      | AUMs |
| Bighorn Sheep   | <u>298</u> | AUMs |
| <br>            |            |      |
| TOTAL           | 139,998    | AUMs |

This distribution of AUMs will continue until and unless reduced by disposal of lands as shown in Decision 1 under the Lands Program.

**Rationale**

These forage allocations are based upon the best data available for each allotment. They allow the maximum use within carrying capacity for each kind of livestock, wild horses, and affected wildlife species. These allocations, together with the appropriate seasons-of-use, activity plans, and range improvements, will help improve the overall condition of the vegetative resource.

**Decision 2**

BLM will prepare Allotment Management Plans (AMPs) for the remaining I category allotments in Tooele County as shown in Table 6 by 1991. AMPs for M allotments will not be completed until after 1991.

**Rationale**

Grazing use in allotments can be improved with development of plans including goals and objectives. The intensity and level of detail for the AMPs will vary depending on the nature of conflicts. Most funding for rangeland improvements will be spent on allotments with AMPs. Future levels of funding and manpower may require some adjustments in the priority list and schedule.

**Decision 3**

Categorize the twelve allotments in Utah County in the Custodial (C) category. Allotments in this management category have limited or no potential for improvement or return on investment. Present management is satisfactory or the most logical practice for the resource involved. Permittees will be encouraged to invest in rangeland improvement projects. The allotments will be monitored approximately once every 10 years to assure that resource deterioration is not occurring.

TABLE 6

ALLOTMENT MANAGEMENT PLAN PRIORITIES  
For  
CATEGORY I ALLOTMENTS

| <u>Priority</u> | <u>Allotments</u>                     |
|-----------------|---------------------------------------|
| 1 .....         | Skunk Ridge - Completed 1984          |
| 2 .....         | Broad Canyon - 1986                   |
| 3 .....         | South Clover - Completed 1985         |
| 4 .....         | West Ibapah - Transferred to Ely, NV  |
| 5 .....         | South Skull Valley - Completed 1985   |
| 6 .....         | Onaqui Mountain East - Completed 1985 |
| 7 .....         | Onaqui Mountain West - Completed 1985 |
| 8 .....         | Skull Valley - Completed 1985         |
| 9 .....         | Ophir - 1989                          |
| 10 .....        | Ibapah - Completed 1985               |
| 11 .....        | Ochre - 1987                          |
| 12 .....        | Government Creek - 1986 Draft         |
| 13 .....        | Saint John - 1988 Draft               |
| 14 .....        | Mercur Canyon/West Ophir - 1989       |
| 15 .....        | Hill Spring - Completed 1985          |
| 16 .....        | Overland Canyon - 1988                |
| 17 .....        | Clifton Flat - 1989                   |
| 18 .....        | Indian Springs - 1987                 |
| 19 .....        | Aragonite - 1988                      |
| 20 .....        | North Cedar Mountain - 1990           |
| 21 .....        | North Puddle - 1990                   |
| 22 .....        | Soldier Canyon - 1991                 |
| 23 .....        | Rush Lake - 1989                      |
| 24 .....        | Salt Mountain - 1986 Draft            |

## Rationale

The twelve allotments are placed in the C category for the following reasons:

- a lack of major conflicts,
- many of the allotments are in good to excellent condition and present management is satisfactory,
- potential for range improvements is very limited, and
- cost effectiveness of projects would be low due to small amounts of BLM land.

## Decision 4

BLM will authorize livestock forage use as shown in Table 7 on six allotments in Utah county. Grazing permits on six small, isolated allotments with minimal or no actual livestock use will be cancelled. These allotments are Iso-tract Cook, Iso-tract Ludlow, Iso-tract Willis, Cherry Creek, Scofield, and Genola Hill. Mule deer and elk use will continue at current levels as determined by BLM and UDWR. No seasons-of-use for livestock will be changed. Total forage distribution on public land in Utah County would be as follows:

|           |                |
|-----------|----------------|
| Cattle    | 495 AUMs       |
| Sheep     | 1,820 AUMs     |
| Mule Deer | 236 AUMs       |
| Elk       | 14 AUMs        |
| Moose     | <u>50 AUMs</u> |
| TOTAL     | 2,615 AUMs     |

## Rationale

Approximately 78 percent of public lands grazed in Utah County are in either a late seral stage or are at the potential natural community. Use at the current allocation would maintain this condition on allotments where grazing will not be eliminated (see Table 7).

The six allotments proposed to be eliminated are small and isolated with minimal to no actual livestock use. Elimination of these allotments will

result in more effective management of the overall grazing program in Utah County because manpower and financial resources can be concentrated in more critical areas.

## WILD HORSE PROGRAM

### Decision 1

BLM will continue to manage the herd size of the Cedar Mountain Wild Horse Unit at 85 animals (1,020 AUMs) and the Onaqui Mountain Unit at 45 animals (540 AUMs).

### Rationale

Herd Unit Management Plans have been developed for these horse herds. This decision meets the objectives as outlined in the plans.

## WILDLIFE AND FISHERIES PROGRAM

### Priorities

Highest priorities will be given to actions that provide protection to species and improve their habitats. The decisions are listed in order of priority.

### Decision 1

BLM will develop and implement Habitat Management Plans (HMPs) or other more specific wildlife activity plans to protect, improve and maintain all important wildlife habitat. The HMPs will be prepared cooperatively with UDWR to assure that the State's wildlife management objectives are met.

All important public land habitat areas within the Pony Express Resource Area will be covered by such a plan. These areas are:

(1)**Horseshoe Springs WHA.** This WHA will consist of the spring/riparian/mud flat area in northern Skull Valley between Interstate 80 and

TABLE 7  
FORAGE DISTRIBUTION BY ALLOTMENT  
UTAH COUNTY

| Allotment                    | Livestock Use (AUM's) |       |       | Big Game Use (AUM's) |     |       | TOTAL |
|------------------------------|-----------------------|-------|-------|----------------------|-----|-------|-------|
|                              | Cattle                | Sheep | Total | Deer                 | Elk | Moose |       |
| Cherry Creek                 |                       |       | *     | 23                   | 14  | 50    | 87    |
| Scofield                     |                       |       | *     | 1                    |     |       | 1     |
| West Mountain                | 178                   | 710   | 888   | 103                  |     |       | 103   |
| Lake Mountain NE             | --                    | 445   | 445   | 29                   |     |       | 29    |
| Lake Mountain Davis          | --                    | 348   | 348   | 16                   |     |       | 16    |
| Lake Mountain Smith          | --                    | 41    | 41    | 19                   |     |       | 19    |
| Lake Mountain<br>Monte Vista | 317                   | --    | 317   | 25                   |     |       | 25    |
| Chipman                      | --                    | 276   | 276   | 19                   |     |       | 19    |
| Iso-tract Willes             |                       |       | *     |                      |     |       |       |
| Iso-tract Cook               |                       |       | *     |                      |     |       |       |
| Iso-tract Ludlow             |                       |       | *     |                      |     |       |       |
| Genola Hill                  |                       |       | *     |                      |     |       |       |
| TOTAL                        | 495                   | 1,820 | 2,315 | 236                  | 14  | 50    | 300   |

GRAND TOTAL - 2,615 AUMs

\*Part or all of these grazing allotments would be eliminated.

Iosepa. It will extend west from the Skull Valley road to the edge of the mud flat.

(2)**Simpson/Sheeprock WHA.** This WHA will include Simpson, Sheeprock, Dugway and Davis Mountains and connecting valleys. Judd/Aspen, Indian and Sheeprock Creeks and riparian areas are also within this WHA. It is bound on the north and west by the military reservation, on the south by the Resource Area boundary, and on the east by the Vernon Division/Wasatch National Forest.

(3) **Tintic R/A WHA.** This WHA encompasses the East Tintic Mountains. The boundaries follow the Resource Area boundaries on the south and east, Twelve Mile Pass road on the north, and the Tintic foothills on the west.

(4)**Gold Hill WHA.** BLM will revise the existing Deep Creek Mountain HMP to include the former Gold Hill Planning Unit. It is bounded by the military reservation on the north and east and by the Resource Area boundary on the south and west. Rocky Canyon Creek/riparian area will also be contained within the WHA.

(5)**Oquirrh Mountain WHA.** This WHA will consist of the Oquirrh Mountains and foothills.

(6)**Cedar Mountains WHA.** This WHA will include the Cedar Mountains, the portion of Skull Valley not included in another WHA, and the valley west of the Cedar Mountains. The military reservation forms the west and south boundary, I-80 forms the north boundary, and Skull Valley road and the mud flats form the east boundary.

(7)**Puddle Valley WHA.** BLM will revise the existing Puddle Valley HMP to include all important public land habitat north of I-80 and between the Great Salt Lake on the east and the mud flats on the west.

(8)**Stansbury/Onaqui WHA.** BLM will revise the existing Stansbury Mountain HMP to include all important public land habitat within the Stansbury and Onaqui Mountains. Interstate 80 and the Lookout Pass roads will form the north and south boundaries, respectively. The Skull Valley road will be the west boundary, and the Grantsville road and foothills of the Stansbury and Onaqui Mountains will be the east boundary.

(9)**Stansbury Island and Silver Island WHAs** (tentative). HMPs may be written for these areas if important wildlife values are found.

HMPs will be done based upon the annual work plan and the area manager's decision. Only one possible HMP is anticipated in Utah County. Lands around Utah Lake presently withdrawn by the Bureau of Reclamation may be returned to BLM. An HMP covering some or all of these wetland-related lands may subsequently be prepared.

## Rationale

It is BLM policy to develop comprehensive activity plans that state the management objectives and the steps necessary to accomplish these objectives for a given resource within a certain area. Once signed, the HMPs will guide the wildlife program within the area in an orderly and economic fashion.

## Decision 2

All threatened and endangered species are provided for under the Endangered Species Act; however, due to the unusual resource that exists within the Resource Area, additional measures will be made to improve and encourage the propagation of these important species.

These measures include:

- maintenance and improvement of bald eagle roosting and winter high uses areas,
- installation of natural and artificial roosts to replace dead trees,
- maintenance of prey base habitat, i.e. jackrabbit populations.
- protection and improvement of peregrine falcon historic eyres and habitat.

BLM will also protect candidate species during critical nesting periods. These species include ferruginous hawks and Swainson's hawks.

## Rationale

The Endangered Species Act prohibits Federal agencies from taking action that is likely to jeopardize the continued existence of any threatened or endangered species or to adversely modify critical habitat. The act further requires Federal agencies to carry out programs to conserve threatened and endangered species and to restore such species to a non-endangered status. The above decision is in compliance with these regulations.

### Decision 3

BLM proposes to cooperate fully with peregrine falcon reintroductions into the Timpie Springs and Blue Lake areas. Surface disturbing activities on public lands adjacent to these reintroduction sites will not be permitted to disturb birds or destroy important habitat. BLM will develop specifics for further management actions in the HMP for the habitat area.

## Rationale

It is BLM policy to cooperate with State wildlife agencies, where possible, to reintroduce native species into historic ranges. The Endangered Species Act prohibits Federal agencies from taking any action that is likely to jeopardize the continued existence of the Federally endangered peregrine falcon. The act further requires Federal agencies to carry out programs to conserve threatened and endangered species and restore the species to a non-endangered status.

### Decision 4

BLM will protect important wildlife habitat values from disturbing activities by restricting seismic work, well development, new road construction, rights-of-way, organized recreational activities, military exercises, and other disturbing activities excluding maintenance activities in the following areas during the stated time periods:

(1) within mule deer winter range December 1 to April 15.

(2) within 0.5 mile of active raptor nest sites March 1 to July 15.

(3) within 0.5 mile of sage grouse strutting grounds (leks) and crucial sage grouse nesting habitat between March 15 and June 15 each year and within winter crucial habitat areas December 1 through March 1.

(4) within 1200 feet of riparian habitats.

(5) within bighorn sheep crucial winter and lambing areas. Once these ranges have been established by the reintroduced animals, appropriate dates and crucial habitats will be delineated.

(6) within antelope fawning areas April 15 to July 1.

(7) within crucial mule deer summer/fawning habitats April 15 to July 31.

(8) within crucial elk winter range December 1 to April 30 and calving areas May 1 to June 30.

(9) within waterfowl habitat, i.e. marsh and wetland areas.

(10) within .5 mile of bald eagle roost sites between November 15 and March 15.

Specific exceptions may be granted by BLM if the proposed activity will not seriously disturb the wildlife habitat values being protected.

## Rationale

Implementation of the above measures will provide necessary protection of key wildlife habitats in the Resource Area. These measures will provide adequate protection for important breeding, wintering, watering, and feeding habitats for a variety of wildlife species, as well as preventing unnecessary degradation of the environment.

These measures also comply with mandates as outlined in Executive Orders 11988 and 11990, Federal Water Pollution Control Act, and FLPMA (Section 103).

### Decision 5

BLM will improve crucial habitats of present wildlife populations where condition and trend

indicate a decline of desirable plant communities. An appropriate wildlife habitat study will be conducted to determine the condition of these areas. This information will help guide BLM in planning improvement projects. Some of the crucial habitats that warrant further study include:

- (1) crucial mule deer winter range,
- (2) crucial mule deer summer/fawning range,
- (3) sage grouse crucial strutting and associated nesting habitat,
- (4) sage grouse crucial winter range,
- (5) antelope fawning areas, and
- (6) bighorn sheep ranges.

On these ranges, grazing use will be reviewed for opportunities to reduce conflicts between livestock and wildlife, e.g., domestic and bighorn sheep would be incompatible as disease transmission potential is high. Change of livestock kind could help improve riparian areas when coupled with other measures.

Vegetation treatments such as burning, chaining, reseeding and all other manipulations within crucial ranges of wildlife species will be designed to maintain habitat for those wildlife species most threatened by the practice.

## Rationale

Crucial habitats are the limiting factor in the maintenance of most wildlife species. It is important to the species' survival that these habitats remain or are improved to be in good condition. When wildlife crucial habitats are improved, other multiple use resource values may also be improved. Habitat improvements can improve watershed condition by decreasing erosion. Stream condition can be improved by improving riparian habitat condition. These improvements increase potential recreation use.

## Decision 6

BLM will improve, maintain and expand those areas suitable for waterfowl and shorebird habitat. Measures could include:

- (1) implementation of appropriate marsh and wetland maintenance and protection through grazing systems, use restrictions, and fencing if appropriate;
- (2) expansion through appropriate land and water right acquisitions, Habitat Management Plan development and implementation;
- (3) waterfowl improvement through construction of new reservoirs and modification of suitable range or watershed reservoir projects, vegetation plantings, protected nesting area construction; and
- (4) open water and loafing area construction through such measures as pothole blasting and dike construction.

## Rationale

Improving habitats for waterfowl and shorebirds also improves watershed condition, water quality, increases recreation opportunities, and improves vegetation condition in general. The habitat improvement activities are consistent with BLM's multiple use management policy.

## Decision 7

BLM will agree to future reintroductions of big game species on the public lands within the Resource Area if the following criteria are met:

- BLM policy requirements as stated in manual 6820 must be followed.
- The species to be established must meet the definition of a reestablishment (reintroduction) as defined in manual section 6820.05c.

- The reintroduction must be approved or sponsored by the Utah Division of Wildlife Resources (UDWR).
- Effective quarantine procedures must be implemented to insure that the release stock is disease-free.
- An Environmental Assessment (EA) and Habitat Management Plan (HMP) must determine:

(1) that the reintroduction will not negatively affect any native endangered, threatened or sensitive species, either plant or animal;

(2) that land use conflicts which cannot or have not been resolved will not result from the reintroduction. In cases where the release may be for greater benefit than the competing use, the release may take precedence. Forage allocation for the proposed population will be based upon availability of forage not used by livestock due to the difference in food preferences, and UDWR will seek agreement with adjoining landowners; and

(3) what studies are necessary to monitor the reintroduction.

Following the completion of the HMP, a Cooperative Agreement between BLM and UDWR must be prepared to authorize the big game reintroduction.

The above procedure applies only to big game species. Federally-threatened, endangered, and sensitive species will be subject to similar procedures but will be handled on a case-by-case basis. Fisheries and upland game species are not affected by this decision but must meet the criteria outlined in the Master Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) between UDWR and the BLM.

The recent introduction of Rocky Mountain elk onto the Goshute Indian Reservation was not coordinated through BLM. No forage has been allocated on public lands in the Deep Creek Mountains for elk; however, it is likely that these animals will summer and potentially become

established on BLM lands. Conflicts could arise between livestock, bighorn sheep, and elk. Conflict resolution will be coordinated through all affected agencies.

## Rationale

It is BLM policy to cooperate with State wildlife agencies, where possible, to reintroduce native species into historic ranges. The Master MOU between the BLM and UDWR also calls for this cooperation. The above criteria meet the Master MOU and BLM manual requirements for the reintroduction of big game species.

No BLM lands were included in the elk transplant area. The elk herd will be observed in the coming years to see if they utilize public lands and if a trend develops. If conflicts arise, a planning amendment will be required to determine if changes in forage allocation are needed and/or desired.

## Decision 8

BLM will continue to work cooperatively with UDWR to reintroduce bighorn sheep into the Deep Creek and Stansbury Mountains. To date 16 animals have been reintroduced to the Deep Creek Mountains. It is estimated that 85 animals could eventually inhabit public lands in the Tooele County portion of the Deep Creek Mountains, and 120 animals could eventually inhabit public and Forest Service lands in the Stansbury Mountains. At maximum population the bighorn sheep would require 298 AUMs annually.

These reintroductions shall be implemented incrementally with monitoring until UDWR herd objectives are met or carrying capacity is reached, whichever occurs first. Additional specifics for implementation shall be developed through the HMP process.

## Rationale

It is BLM policy to cooperate with State wildlife agencies where possible to reintroduce native species into historic ranges. There have been no conflicts with the bighorn sheep reintroduction effort to date and none are expected.



## Decision 9

BLM will continue to monitor the reintroduced herd of antelope (150 animals) in southern Rush Valley, Tooele County, to determine if the herd conflicts with any other uses. If monitoring shows that major conflicts exist, close coordination with all affected parties will be undertaken to resolve the problems.

### Rationale

Although no conflicts have been identified to date, BLM will continue to monitor the herd's interaction with other resources and uses.

## Decision 10

BLM will continue to encourage UDWR's proposed reintroduction/transplants of upland game birds (chukar partridge, sage grouse, sharp-tailed grouse, ring-necked pheasants, etc.) onto suitable habitat within the Resource Area. Specifics for implementing any such proposed reintroduction/transplants shall be developed in the HMP for the habitat area.

### Rationale

It is BLM policy to cooperate with State wildlife agencies, where possible, to reintroduce/transplant desirable upland game birds with the Resource Area so long as such reintroductions are compatible with other resource needs. The Master MOU between BLM and UDWR also calls for cooperation between the agencies.

## Decision 11

BLM will use cooperative management plans to provide an opportunity for wildlife habitat development and improvement. Habitat could be expanded on public lands by converting isolated tracts of rangeland within pheasant range to cropland or irrigated pasture. Cooperative agreements between BLM, UDWR and a lessee who farms the land work effectively. Under such an agreement, the lessee would employ farming practices which provide pheasant habitat and allow public hunting in exchange for farm production values received on the harvested portion. Only

areas with suitable soil and adequate water near existing agricultural areas should be considered.

### Rationale

Cooperative management plans for wildlife habitat have worked well for the Salt Lake District in the past. These types of agreements benefit wildlife, the public and the private landowner with little or no conflict or controversy.

## Decision 12

Rangeland watering facilities will allow for wildlife use. When practical, overflow ponds at water developments will be at least 100 yards from livestock watering sources to allow for a cleaner water source for wildlife. Location of future water developments should minimize conflicts between livestock and wildlife.

All livestock fencing projects will allow for movement of wildlife. Design and specifications will be dictated by terrain, kind of livestock and affected wildlife species.

### Rationale

It is BLM policy to facilitate wildlife use when designing and building improvements.

## RECREATION PROGRAM

### Priorities

Highest priority will be given to the ORV plan and the SRMA plans. The SRMAs are listed in order of priority. ERMA plans will be a lower priority.

### Decision 1

Manage the following areas as Special Recreation Management Areas (RMAs):

Maintenance Change No. \_\_\_\_\_

RMP AMENDMENT/MAINTENANCE SHEET

Plan Name Pony Express RMP Program Recreation

LOCATION OF CHANGE

Page No. 41 Decision No. 2 Line No. \_\_\_\_\_

CHANGE

Delete:

Decision 2

Insert:

OHV Plan Amendment  
July 22, 1992

REASON

SIGNATURE AS APPROPRIATE

Program Leader \_\_\_\_\_ Date \_\_\_\_\_

Environmental Coordinator Alice Stephenson Date 8-30-92

Manager \_\_\_\_\_ Date \_\_\_\_\_

(1) Bonneville Salt Flats Special RMA, 30,203 acres. This portion of this decision is under protest and cannot be implemented until the protest is resolved.

(2) Knolls Special RMA, 37,760 acres.

(3) Pony Express Route Special RMA, 21,120 acres.

(4) North Deep Creek Special RMA, 24,960 acres.

(5) Payson Motocross Track Special RMA, 100 acres.

These areas are shown in Figure 6. The remainder of the Pony Express Resource Area would be managed as an Extensive Recreation Management Area (ERMA).

### Rationale

The purpose of RMAs is to establish a basis for determining priority for management and funding, and to delineate units that will require activity planning. The above SRMAs are all areas where a commitment has been made, within the parameters of multiple use, to provide specific recreation activity and experience opportunities on a sustained yield basis. These areas require a higher level of recreation investment and/or management than the ERMA requires. The ERMA possesses several other management objectives outside of recreational use. This extensive area provides unstructured types of recreational activities.

### Decision 2

Designate all public land in the Resource Area as either open, closed, or limited for off-road vehicle use as follows:

|                     | <u>Acres</u> |
|---------------------|--------------|
| Open to ORV use     | 1,669,267    |
| Limited for ORV use | 363,439      |
| Closed to ORV use   | 0            |

Also see Table 8 and Figure 7 for specific resource values and areas designated.

### Rationale

ORV designations are intended to protect the resources of the public lands, to provide the safety of all users and to minimize conflicts among the various uses of those lands. Limiting ORVs establishes controls to govern the use and operation of off-road vehicles in riparian/wetland areas, crucial wildlife habitats, developed recreation sites, watersheds, scenic areas, or areas of potential safety hazards.

## VISUAL RESOURCE MANAGEMENT

### Decision 1

Designate visual resource management (VRM) classes within the Resource Area as follows (see Figure 8):

|                      | <u>Acres</u> |
|----------------------|--------------|
| Class I              | 0            |
| Class II             | 70,520       |
| Class III            | 133,600      |
| Class IV             | 1,827,126    |
| Rehabilitation Areas | 1,460        |

### Rationale

The VRM classes provide managers with objectives that can be applied to actions taking place on the public lands. Land use proposals are reviewed to determine whether visual impacts can be adequately mitigated to meet the objectives of the VRM classes.

## CULTURAL RESOURCE PROGRAM

### Priorities

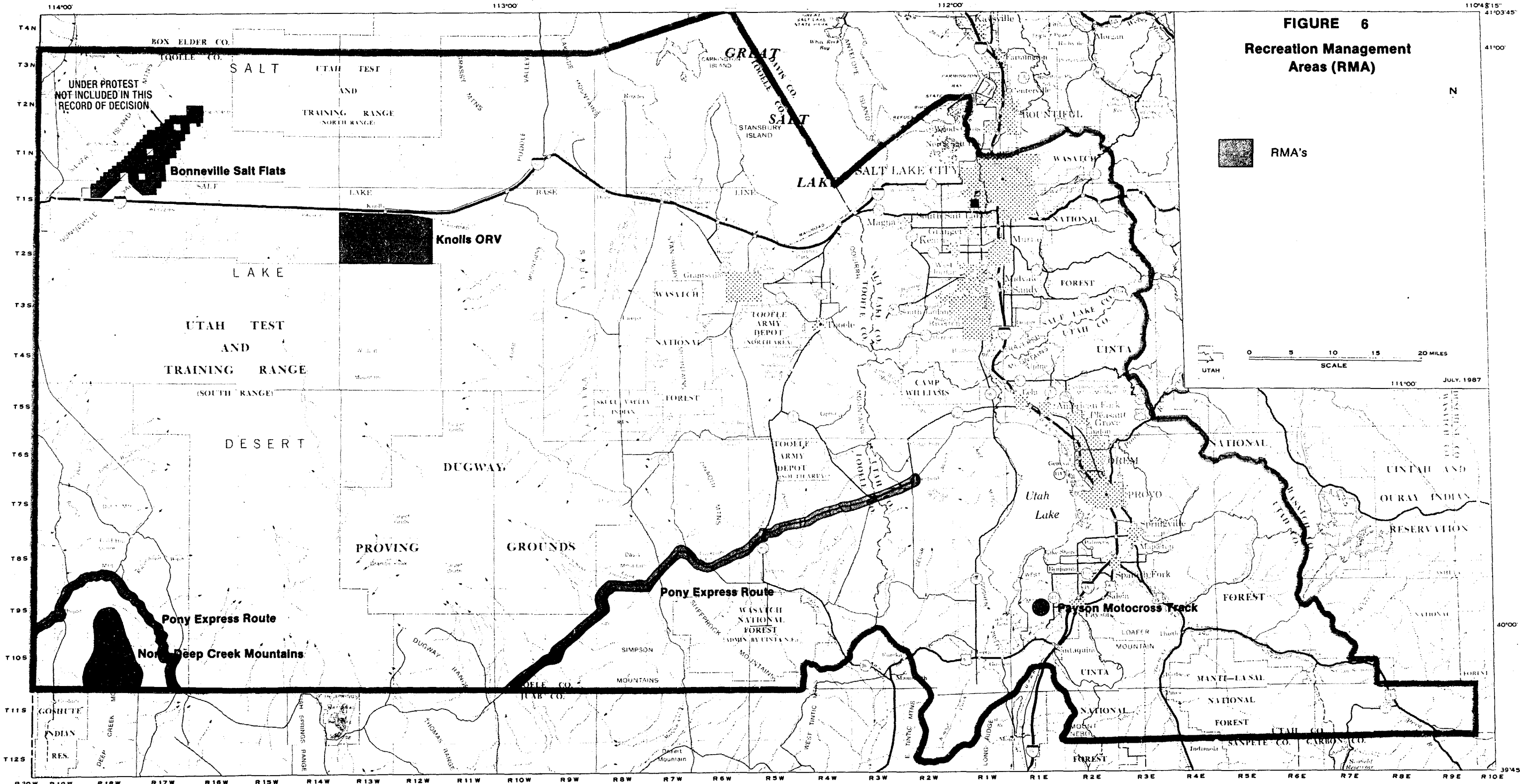
Highest priority will be given to evaluation and inventory of cultural values in areas where ground disturbing actions are proposed. This will ensure that important values are not destroyed. High priority will be given to the evaluation of recorded cultural sites. Other decisions are important but of lower priority.

TABLE 8

Off-Road Vehicle Designations

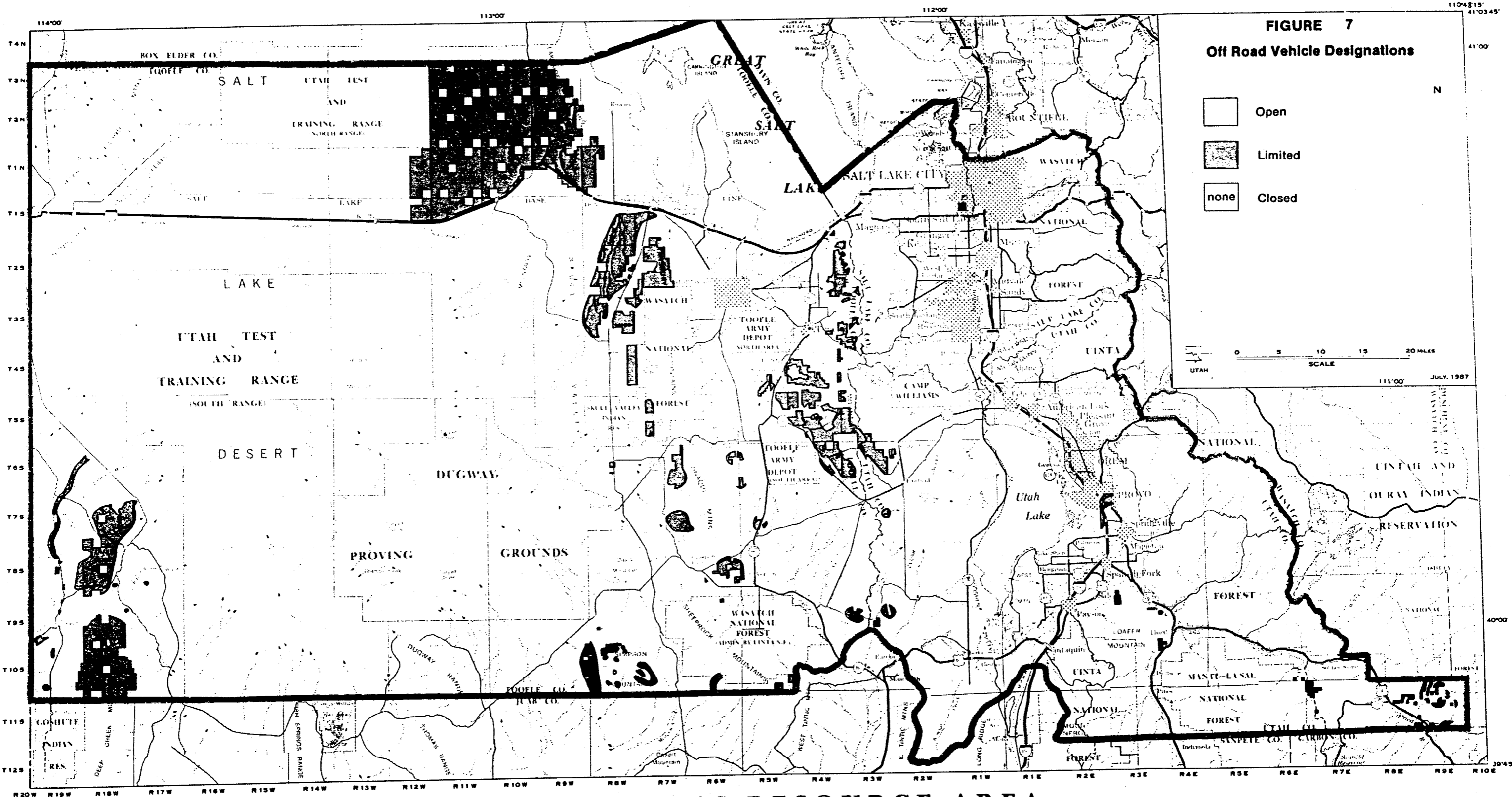
| AREAS  | Open      | Limited<br>(Acres)   | Closed |
|--|-----------|----------------------|--------|
| <u>Utah County</u>                               |           |                      |        |
| Mule Deer Crucial Winter Range                   |           | 280 <sup>1</sup>     |        |
| Elk Crucial Winter Range                         |           | 1,920 <sup>1</sup>   |        |
| Sage Grouse Strutting Grounds<br>(.5 mi. radius) |           | 340 <sup>1</sup>     |        |
| Riparian/Wetland<br>(1200 feet)                  |           | 1,447 <sup>3</sup>   |        |
| <u>Tooele County</u>                             |           |                      |        |
| Mule Deer Crucial Winter Range                   |           | 45,747 <sup>5</sup>  |        |
| Mule Deer Fawning                                |           | 1,070 <sup>1</sup>   |        |
| Riparian Wetland Areas                           |           | 43,408 <sup>6</sup>  |        |
| Bald Eagle Roosts                                |           | 13,575 <sup>1</sup>  |        |
| Sage Grouse Strutting Grounds<br>(.5 mi.)        |           | 10,314 <sup>1</sup>  |        |
| Antelope Habitat (Puddle Valley)                 |           | 192,854 <sup>7</sup> |        |
| Elk Calving                                      |           | 652 <sup>4</sup>     |        |
| Critical Watershed                               |           | 34,904 <sup>4</sup>  |        |
| Simpson Springs Campground                       |           | 40 <sup>4</sup>      |        |
| No. Deep Creek Mountains                         |           | 28,260 <sup>8</sup>  |        |
| Stansbury Mountains                              |           | 10,000 <sup>2</sup>  |        |
| Antelope Fawning                                 |           | 9,755 <sup>1</sup>   |        |
| Mule Deer Crucial Summer Range                   |           | 1,540 <sup>1</sup>   |        |
| GRAND TOTALS                                     | 1,669,267 | 363,439              | 0      |

- 1 Seasonal limitation for organized, permitted ORV events.
- 2 Seasonal limitation for all ORV activity.
- 3 No organized, permitted ORV events within 1,200 feet.
- 4 Limited to existing roads and trails.
- 5 Stansbury Mountains: Limited to existing roads and trails seasonally.  
Onaqui Mountains: Limited to existing roads and trails yearlong. Closed seasonally to organized permitted events in Deep Creek Mountains.
- 6 Rush Lake and Horseshoe Springs: Closed seasonally.  
No activity within 1,200 feet of other riparian areas.
- 7 Closed to organized, permitted events year-round.
- 8 Limited to designated roads and trails.



**FIGURE 6**  
**Recreation Management**  
**Areas (RMA)**

**PONY EXPRESS RESOURCE AREA**  
**SALT LAKE DISTRICT**



**FIGURE 7**

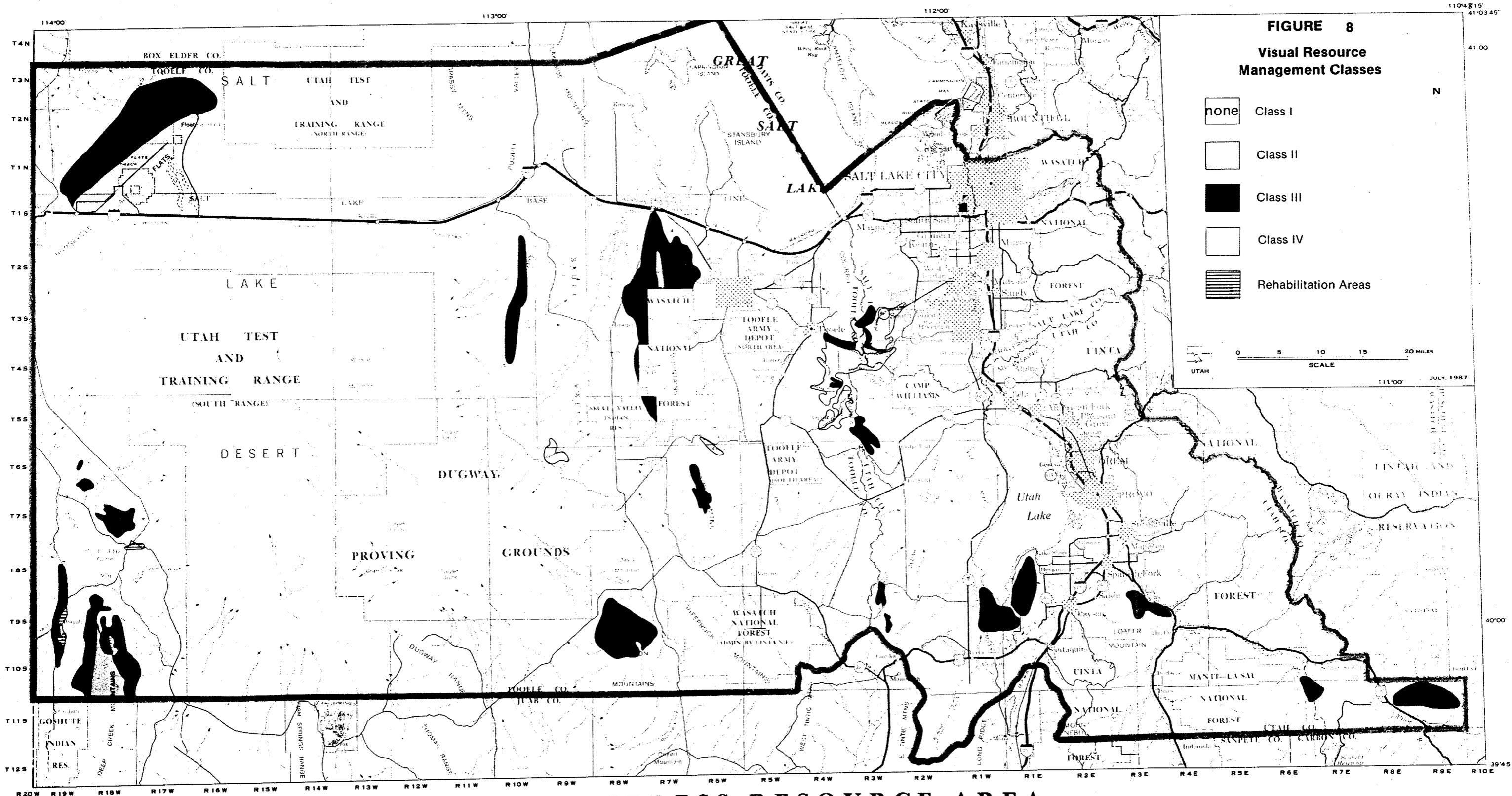
**Off Road Vehicle Designations**

- Open
- Limited
- Closed

0 5 10 15 20 MILES  
SCALE

UTAH JULY, 1987

**PONY EXPRESS RESOURCE AREA**  
SALT LAKE DISTRICT



**FIGURE 8**  
**Visual Resource**  
**Management Classes**

- Class I
- Class II
- Class III
- Class IV
- Rehabilitation Areas

0 5 10 15 20 MILES  
 SCALE

JULY 1987

**PONY EXPRESS RESOURCE AREA**  
 SALT LAKE DISTRICT

## Decision 1

Cultural resources (which include historic and prehistoric sites, artifacts, structures or locales) will continue to be inventoried and evaluated on a case-by-case basis. Such evaluation will consider the impacts of any proposed action to cultural resources in the affected area. Stipulations will be attached as appropriate to assure compatibility of projects with management objectives for cultural resources.

For existing cultural properties, a determination of significance will be made prior to any project being implemented (this may include re-records and/or testing of a site). In project areas where resource knowledge is limited or unknown, both examinations of existing data and field inventories will be done to identify the resources and evaluate the significance of each (whether they meet the criteria of eligibility of the National Historic Preservation Act for nomination to the National Register of Historic Places). In all cases, new sites will be recorded using Intermountain Antiquities Computer System (IMACs) forms, and include maps and photo documentation.

Prior to the implementation of any activity plan or project that may adversely affect any cultural resources, the Utah State Historic Preservation Office (SHPO), and if necessary, the Advisory Council on Historic Preservation (ACHP), will be consulted in the determination of effect upon the property. Appropriate mitigation measures would be undertaken for any sites determined to be adversely affected by the proposed project or plan. These measures may include, but are not limited to, the following:

- (1) Adjusting of the project boundaries to avoid impacting the sites.
- (2) Adopting methods or techniques that would minimize disturbance to the site and its environmental setting.
- (3) Additional testing and evaluation of the site.
- (4) Removing and relocating the cultural property to another appropriate location after documentation of the property and the development of a management plan to maintain the historic value of the property.

(5) Excavating archeological properties with a goal of recovering the research values of the properties.

The inventory or mitigation will be directed by BLM cultural resource specialists or through contracts with individuals or institutions meeting professional standards.

## Rationale

Federal law requires that we consider the effect of all BLM proposed, funded or licensed undertakings upon cultural resources. Regulation and policy have been developed to guide such activities.

## Decision 2

As time and funding allow, BLM will evaluate all recorded sites on public lands within the Resource Area and assign them to one of three management categories, indicating availability for:

- (1) immediate scientific research,
- (2) recreation use/interpretation, or
- (3) conservation for future use.

## Rationale

BLM has developed management categories to enable the manager to better manage cultural resource properties. As cultural resource properties are identified and evaluated, current BLM policy requires that they be assigned to a category.

## Decision 3

A monitoring plan will be developed for the Resource Area. This plan will present a systematic scheme for examining significant sites over time to determine the causal agent and whether there is any deterioration of the sites. Steps may then be taken to protect the sites being damaged.

All sites newly recorded on public lands within the Resource Area will be evaluated and assigned to one of the three management categories listed above. If warranted, they will also be included on the list of sites covered by the monitoring plan.



## Rationale

Federal laws, regulation and policy require that we protect significant cultural resources (i.e. those which are eligible or potentially eligible for inclusion on the National Register of Historic Places). A monitoring plan will provide BLM with a systematic method of checking on those significant sites in the Resource Area which require protection. BLM will then monitor any deterioration (whether human or natural causes) and develop methods to counter or halt such deterioration.

## Decision 4

Following completion and management acceptance of the BLM study of predictive modeling in archaeological survey work, a predictive model of archaeological site locations shall be developed to provide the basis for the protection of cultural resources in the Pony Express Resource Area. The goal of the model is to identify and evaluate those natural environmental and physiographic variables by which the probability of archaeological site occurrence and density can be predicted.

If the probability for the occurrence of archaeological sites is predicted to be low for a particular area, an archaeological clearance may be granted based upon inventories done in the past. At least 25 percent of all projects in these areas will have some survey to test and refine the predictive model.

If the model predicts a high probability of finding sites within an area, a cultural resource clearance shall be made for all surface disturbing actions on public lands using standard BLM procedures. The model will be examined at least once every two years for validity and refinement. New data will be added and assessed at that time.

## Rationale

As the public lands managed by the Salt Lake District are quite extensive, it is extremely difficult to comply with existing laws and regulations to identify and protect significant cultural resources. A predictive model would provide a statistically valid method for aiding in the determination of

which areas would require cultural inventory prior to project development.

## Decision 5

Efforts will be undertaken on a regular and systematic basis to educate the public on the values of preserving their historic and prehistoric heritage. These efforts will include informing the public of archaeological data collection needs, methods and the Federal laws which protect cultural resources. These efforts will include, but not be limited to, working with the public schools to enhance their curriculum, providing training to local school teachers, providing training to members of the Utah State-wide Archaeological Society (USAS), and working with students and faculty from interested colleges and universities.

## Rationale

Vandalism and inadvertent destruction of cultural resources on public lands is a growing problem in Utah and the entire western United States. Education seems to be the best method to decrease site damage. As people acquire knowledge of the values of archeological resources, they acquire a sense of ownership of the resource which results in a desire to protect it. Those who wish to profit from such vandalism may be deterred by knowledge of the laws which protect the sites. With over eighty percent of Utah's population within the Salt Lake District, through our educational efforts, we are in a position to have a positive effect upon cultural resource protection throughout the state.

## Decision 6

A sensitivity map will be developed for the Resource Area which will depict the geological formations and areas with known potential to contain important paleontological resources. Should a proposed surface-disturbing project be within an area of high sensitivity for paleontological resources, the State paleontologist will be consulted prior to the issuance of a decision.

## Rationale

The State of Utah has a wealth of significant paleontological resources. This map would allow resource specialist to better consider potential impacts.

## AREAS OF CRITICAL ENVIRONMENTAL CONCERN

### Priorities

Highest priority is to continue the Bonneville Salt Flats ACEC and to designate Horseshoe Springs as an ACEC.

### Decision 1

**This decision is under protest and cannot be implemented until the protest is resolved. This decision is to continue to manage 30,203 acres on the Bonneville Salt Flats as an ACEC. The Bonneville Salt Flats were designated as an ACEC in 1985.**

The 30,203 acre ACEC will be unavailable for ownership adjustment. The ACEC will be closed to leasing for potash, salts and other brines. The area is also proposed for a mineral withdrawal. The ACEC is in Fluid Mineral Category 3, No Surface Occupancy. The ACEC is also a Special Recreation Management Area. The VRM Classes are II and III.

### Rationale

The unique saline plains of the Bonneville Salt Flats (BSF) have been intensively managed for the past few decades for high speed automobile testing and racing. A Recreation Area Management Plan was completed in 1977 and revised in 1985. In 1985, 30,203 acres of the BSF were also designated as an ACEC to perpetuate and protect the values and resources of the area. This decision is brought forward from the Tooele Management Plan, 1984. Objectives of the plan are to (a) preserve the unique visual, historic and geological resources, (b) minimize and manage mineral uses and other surface disturbing activities to avoid resource damage, (c) coordinate management of

the BSF ACEC with other landowners and (d) recognize and manage racing and filming activities on the Salt Flats.

The BSF contain three "relevant" resources.

The salt's potential for land speed racing was recognized in 1986 and has become known as the "world's fastest mile." Thousands of records have been set there.

Unique vistas are offered by the contrast between the white salt flats and a distant blue horizon broken only by various mountains. The BSF are rated as a Class A Scenic Quality Unit. The VRM resources were designated Class II.

The BSF are a unique area, directed by geophysical processes that are highly sensitive to interruption by human activity. The area is estimated to have once covered 96,000 acres of crystalline salt, but presently covers about 30,000 acres.

Because of their sensitivity and unique character, the BSF are a nationally and internationally significant resource and meet importance and relevance criteria for an ACEC.

### Decision 2

The following areas will be designated as ACECs.

Horseshoe Springs (760 acres)

The management prescriptions for the Horseshoe ACEC are outlined in Table 9.

North Stansbury Mountains (10,000 acres). This area would be designated as an ACEC only if Congress does not designate the area wilderness.

The management prescription for the North Stansbury ACEC are outlined in Table 9.

North Deep Creek Mountains (28,260 acres). This area would be designated as an ACEC only if Congress does not designate the area wilderness.

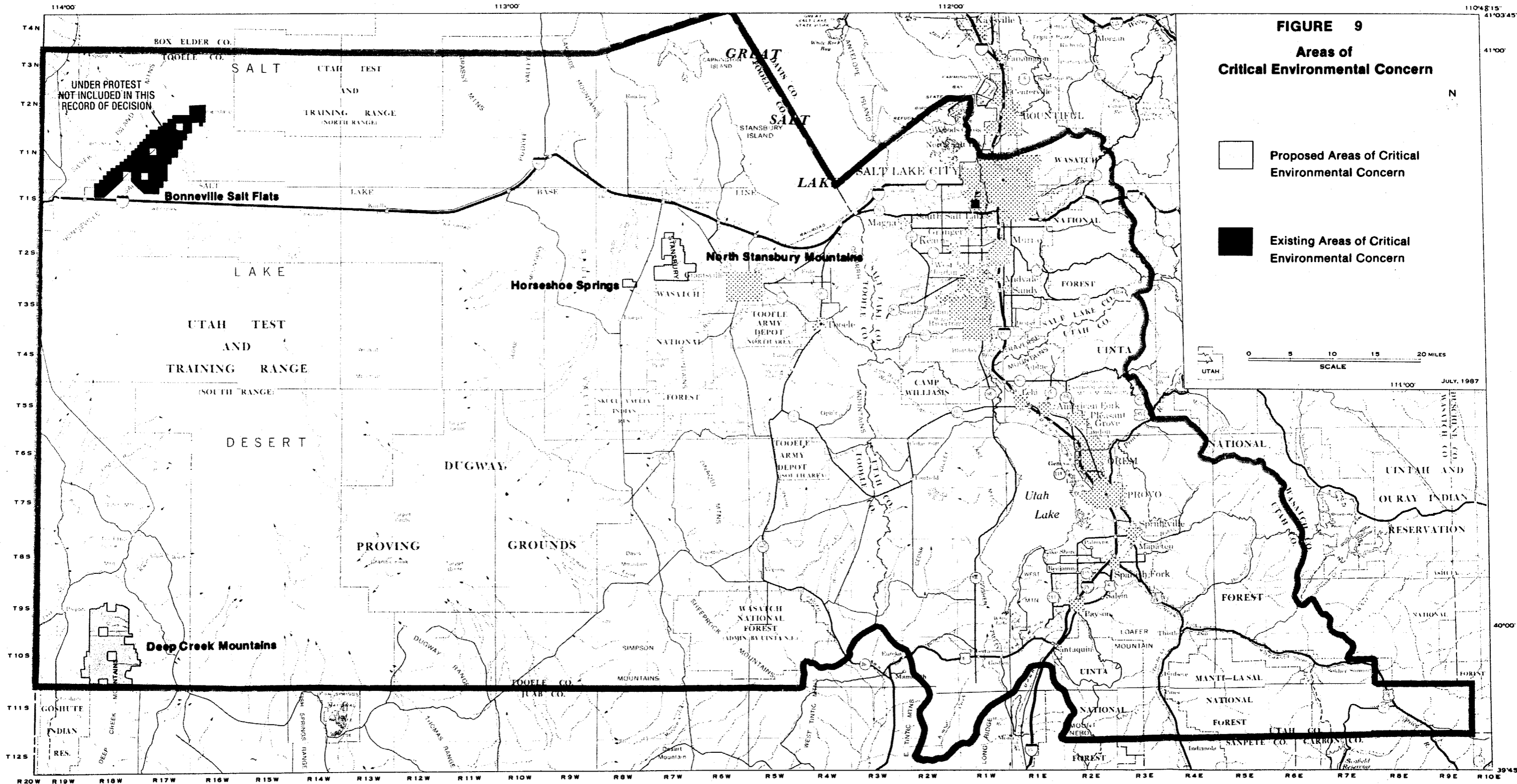
The management prescriptions for the North Deep Creek Mountains ACEC are outlined in Table 9.

Figure 9 shows the ACECs.

TABLE 9

## ACEC MANAGEMENT PRESCRIPTIONS

|  | <u>HORSESHOE SPRINGS<br/>(760 Acres)</u>   | <u>NO. DEEP CREEK<br/>MTN.<br/>(28,260 Acres)</u>       | <u>NO. STANSBURY<br/>MTN.<br/>(10,000 Acres)</u>        |
|--|--|---|---|
| 1. Fluid Mineral Leasing Categories          | Cat. 2 (No surface occupancy or other surface disturbance allowed within 1,200 feet of wetlands) | Cat. 3 (No surface occupancy)                           | Cat. 3 (No surface occupancy)                           |
| 2. Land Tenure                               | Unavailable for ownership adjustment.  | Unavailable for ownership adjustment                    | Unavailable for ownership adjustment                    |
| 3. Livestock Grazing Season-of-Use Livestock | Spring   | Summer/Winter   | Summer  |
| 4. Off-Road-Vehicle Designations             | Closed April 1 to July 15. Limited to within 1,200 feet of wetlands year-round.                  | Limited to designated roads and trails year-round       | Limited to designated roads and trails year-round       |
| 5. Special Recreation Management Area (SRMA) | N/A  | Deep Creek Mtn. SRMA                                    | N/A   |
| 6. Visual Resource Management                | Class IV   | Classes II & III  | Classes II & III  |
| 7. Transportation/Utility Corridors          | Avoidance area   | Avoidance area  | Avoidance area  |
| 8. Forest Products                           | N/A  | No timber or pinyon pine except for management purposes | No timber or pinyon pine except for management purposes |



**FIGURE 9**  
**Areas of**  
**Critical Environmental Concern**

**PONY EXPRESS RESOURCE AREA**  
**SALT LAKE DISTRICT**

## Rationale

Horseshoe Springs is located in the north end of Skull Valley about seven miles south of U.S. Interstate 80. The springs are comprised of several interconnected ponds and channeled streams that cumulatively provide several acres of water area and adjacent wetland habitat.

The Horseshoe Springs area has potential for ACEC management to recognize and protect unique springs and wetlands. The Horseshoe Springs wetland complex covers a significant amount of acreage and is unique to an otherwise dry region. The springs are warm enough to remain open throughout the winter months. This makes the springs complex very valuable as a winter water source.

The area is a popular recreation site for off-road vehicle use, bird-watching, hunting, fishing, and camping. The springs and wetland complex area are a concentrated nesting and feeding area for ducks and other species of birds. The area is a historic use area for the endangered peregrine falcon and with reintroduction likely would be used again.

The importance and sensitivity of the spring complex warrant ACEC designation.

The southern part of the Stansbury Mountains has been designated as a U.S. Forest Service wilderness area (Deseret Peak Wilderness). The northern portion, comprised of 10,480 acres of contiguous public land, is being evaluated for possible wilderness designation. The main values found in the range are remoteness, watershed, varied topography, scenic quality, geologic values, and vegetative diversity.

If the northern portion of the Stansbury Mountains is not designated as wilderness, BLM feels that the area has sufficiently important qualities to be recommended for ACEC designation.

The Deep Creek Mountains are a unique "island ecosystem" within the Basin and Range Province. The special worth of these mountains rests on many outstanding features, including scenic, recreation, watershed, bristlecone pine,

cultural/historical values, and bighorn sheep. These mountains are being evaluated for possible inclusion in the National Wilderness System.

The unique character of the Deep Creek Mountains compared to all others in the PERA makes them of regional importance. The extensive number of sensitive resources present satisfy the relevance criterion and justify the need for special management to protect against irreparable damage. If the Deep Creek Mountains are not designated as wilderness, BLM feels that the area has sufficiently important quality to be recommended for ACEC designation.

## FORESTRY PROGRAM

### Decision 1

Harvest of saw timber for commercial or individual use shall not be allowed anywhere on public land within the Pony Express Resource Area except for maintenance practices such as thinning, disease control, wildlife improvements, and watershed enhancement.

The harvest of pinyon pine for use as Christmas trees, either commercially or individually, shall be at the discretion of the Authorized Officer. These stands will be managed as outlined in the Utah Supplemental Guidance: Management of Woodland Resources.

No wood products of any kind may be harvested from public land within the areas recommended for designation as wilderness.

Harvest of firewood, fence posts and Christmas trees shall not be authorized in crucial deer winter range during the period of December 1 to April 30.

All other areas of juniper forest on public land within the Pony Express Resource Area shall remain open to harvesting of firewood, fence posts, Christmas trees or any other juniper products as defined in the Tooele County Woodland Management Plan and the Utah Supplemental Guidance: Management of Woodland Resources.

## Rationale

Limited amounts and inaccessibility of saw timber in the Resource Area make it uneconomical for commercial or individual harvest. The use of pinyon pine for Christmas trees must be limited in order to manage the small areas of pinyon pine for continued productivity in the Resource Area.

It is BLM policy that no woodland harvests occur in WSAs.

In order to protect deer during the crucial wintering period, some areas will be closed to woodland products harvest.

The majority of the Resource Area is open to woodland products harvest as outlined in the Tooele County Woodland Management Plan.

## TRANSPORTATION AND UTILITY CORRIDORS

### Decision 1

Future proposals for major rights-of-way such as pipelines, large power lines and permanent improved roads must utilize identified corridors as shown in Figure 10. Otherwise, a planning amendment and appropriate environmental analysis will be required. Proposals that are not considered major may be sited outside corridors after demonstrating that locating within a corridor is not viable. In all cases, the utilization of rights-of-way in common shall be considered whenever possible. Rights-of-way, whether within or outside a corridor, will avoid the following areas to the maximum extent possible:

- (1) lands within 0.5 mile of sage grouse strutting grounds if the disturbance would adversely impact the effectiveness of the lek.
- (2) lands within 1200 feet of riparian/aquatic habitats.
- (3) lands within VRM Class II and III areas.
- (4) lands within WSAs.

(5) lands where an above-ground right-of-way would be an obvious visual or physical intrusion such as ridge tops or narrow drainages.

(6) lands with slopes greater than 30 percent.

(7) lands with known or suspected hazardous materials.

In addition, construction activities would not be allowed within the crucial seasons and habitats for mule deer, elk, pronghorn, bald eagles, and other raptors.

Exceptions may be permitted based on consideration of the following criteria:

- type and need for facility proposed and economic impact of facility,
- conflicts with other resource values and uses, and
- availability of alternative routes and/or mitigation measures.

## Rationale

Section 503 of the Federal Land Policy and Management Act of 1976 states, "In order to minimize adverse environmental impacts and the proliferation of separate rights-of-way, the utilization of rights-of-way in common shall be required to the extent practical..." BLM's intention is to make every reasonable effort when considering right-of-way proposals to avoid environmentally sensitive areas and to meet the needs of the local populace and other users.

## FIRE MANAGEMENT PROGRAM

### Decision 1

All wildfires on public land will receive some level of suppression. The authorized officer has the responsibility to determine the intensity of the suppression effort to meet the overall protection objective to put the fire out with minimum

Maintenance Change No. \_\_\_\_\_

RMP AMENDMENT/MAINTENANCE SHEET

Plan Name Pony Express RMP Program Fire

LOCATION OF CHANGE

Page No. 56 Decision No. 1 Line No. \_\_\_\_\_

CHANGE

Delete: Decision 1

Insert: Refer to Fire Management Plan Amendment  
7-27-98

REASON

SIGNATURE AS APPROPRIATE

Program Leader \_\_\_\_\_ Date \_\_\_\_\_

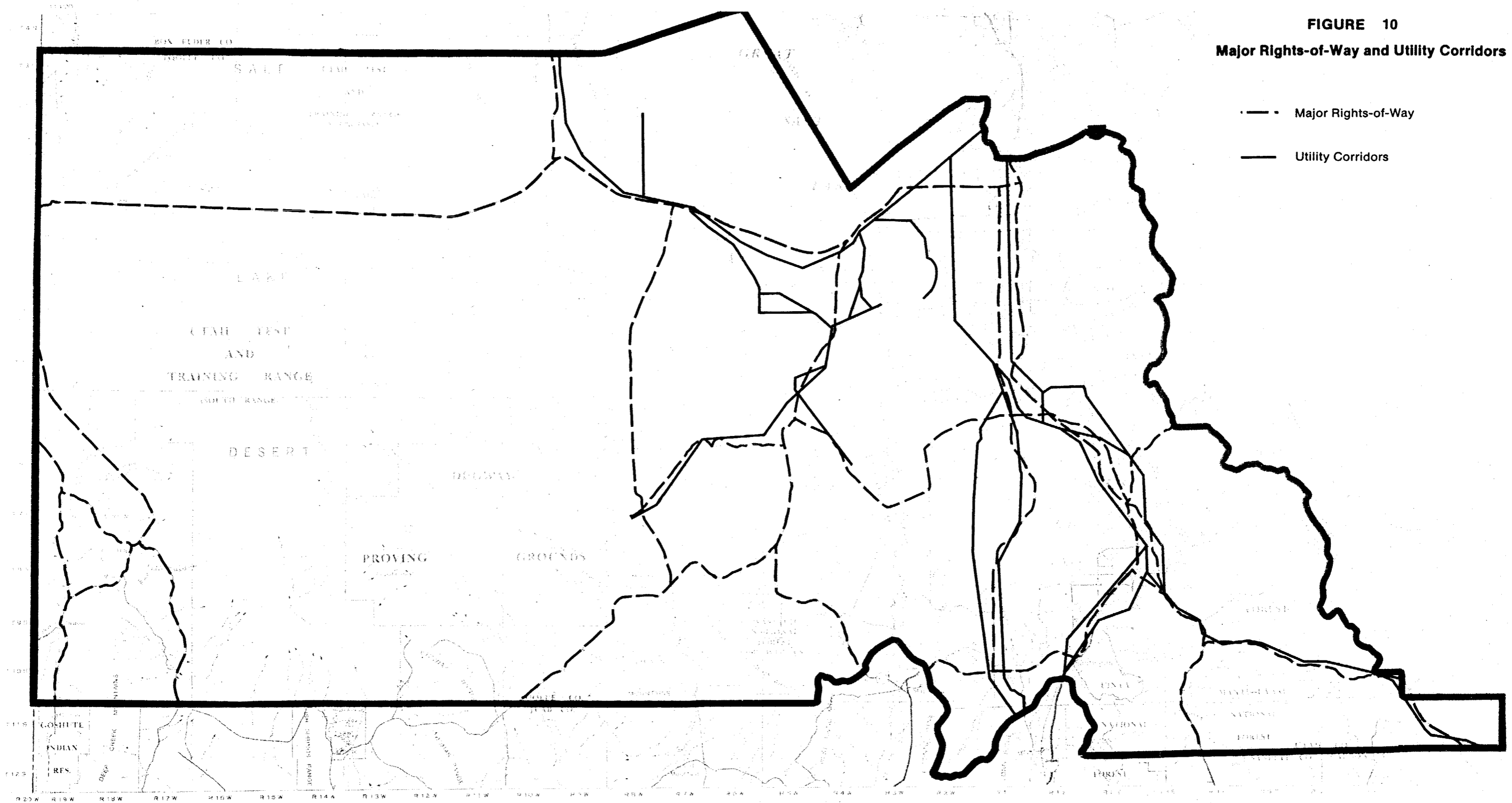
Environmental Coordinator Alice Stephenson Date 10-1-98

Manager \_\_\_\_\_ Date \_\_\_\_\_

FIGURE 10

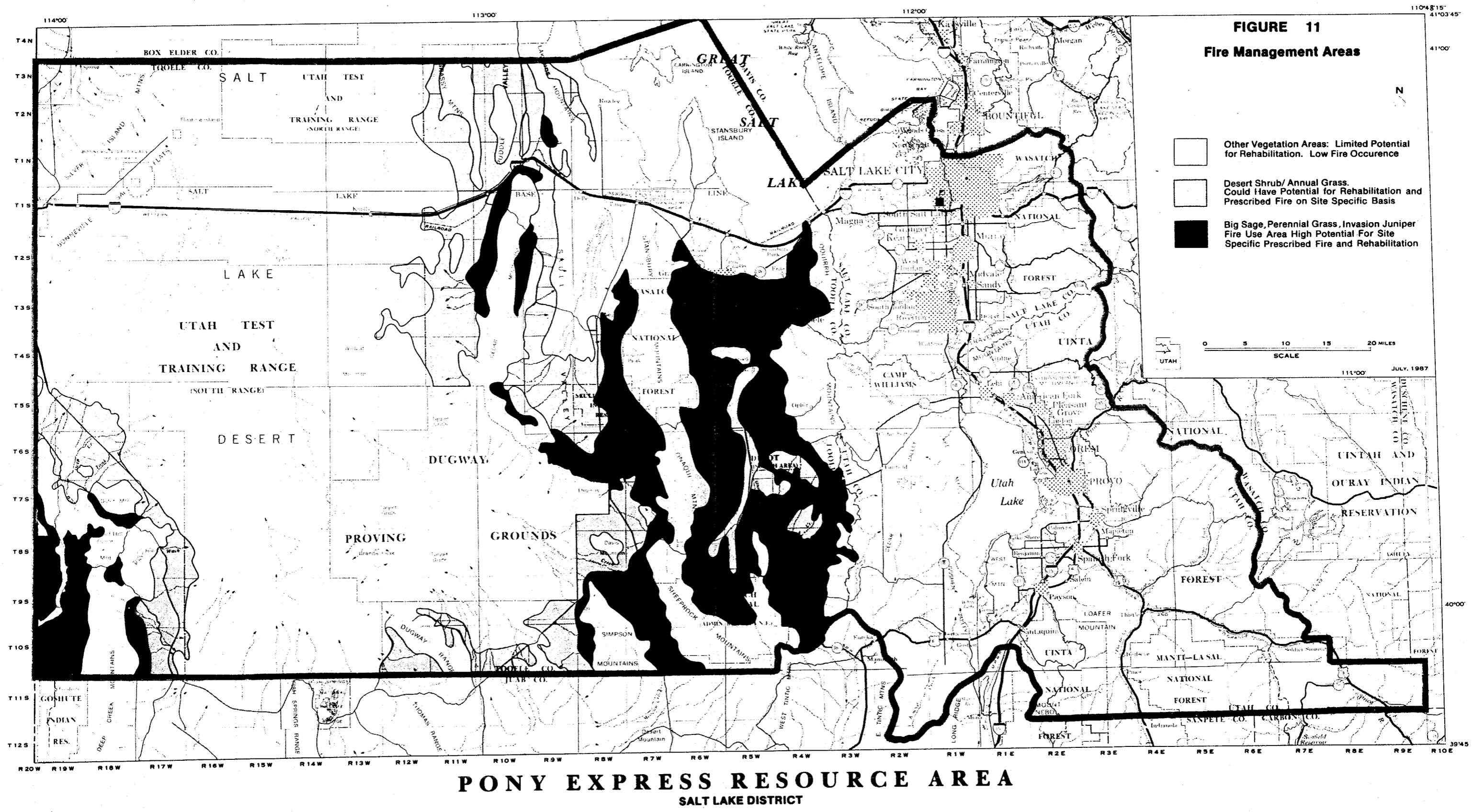
Major Rights-of-Way and Utility Corridors

- - - Major Rights-of-Way
- Utility Corridors



**PONY EXPRESS RESOURCE AREA**  
**SALT LAKE DISTRICT**





suppression cost and minimal losses, consistent with management objectives.

All facilities, structures or developments that are susceptible to fire damage will receive intensive suppression. The primary objective with this level of suppression is to prevent loss of life, property, or unacceptable resource damage. All other public lands in the Resource Area will be considered conditional suppression. On these lands the intensity of suppression actions is not fixed and will vary with the conditions occurring at the time of start. These conditional suppression areas will be managed on a least cost plus resource loss basis. In these areas, the full spectrum of intensities is to be considered and the determination on which intensity level to initiate suppression is based on the conditions at the time.

Objectives for fire management are planned results which can more than likely be attained and are categorized by vegetation type. Many factors influence these objectives including vegetation (fuel) type, rate of spread, travel distance involved with initial attack, historic fire occurrence, fire weather, and availability of fire suppression resources to name just a few. There are other opportunities to lessen the acres burned, but budget restraints have limited their implementation. They include green stripping, black lining, additional engines at all field stations, and the construction of an additional field station in southern Skull Valley. BLM will prepare vegetation modification plans for Skull Valley and Puddle Valley to reduce wildfire and attempt to stop or reverse the cheatgrass conversion cycle.

BLM can, however, expect some fire occurrence in the Resource Area and, due to current field station location and mix of equipment, anticipate some loss of vegetation. If the acres identified in the objectives are exceeded and resource damage occurs, the above mentioned methods to lessen acres burned may be implemented.

The following objectives are tied to vegetation types per fire occurrence and are common for all periods of the year:

(1) In the desert shrub/saltbush vegetation type confine fires to 100 acres.

(2) In the sagebrush/perennial grass vegetation type, including areas of juniper invasion, confine fires to 300 acres.

(3) In the juniper vegetation type, confine fires to 200 acres.

(4) In the annual vegetation type, confine fires to 300 acres.

(5) Under burning conditions which would threaten to sterilize soil, confine all fires in all vegetation types to 50 acres.

(6) Where T&E plants are present, design wildfire control measures to protect the species.

Five additional vegetation types are not covered by these objectives. Fire occurrence within these types has been minimal and should be evaluated on an individual basis by the resource advisor. Objective 5 would still apply to these vegetation types.

Prescribed fire will be used as a resource management tool. Figure 11 indicates the fire management and use areas in Tooele County. Prescribed burns within the areas will be used to alter vegetation for the benefit of watershed, livestock grazing and/or wildlife habitat. The areas selected for prescribed burning will have the potential for natural revegetation.

## Rationale

BLM policy requires a fire management program that identifies conditional suppression areas and provides thresholds for allowable burned acreages for various vegetation types.

## COSTS OF IMPLEMENTATION

The costs of implementing the RMP would generally approximate the current operating budget of about \$500,000 per year. There would, however, be some increased costs associated with implementation and management of the plan. Additional costs from more intensive management of some programs would occur in the following areas:

(1)Administrative costs of ACECs and Special Recreation Management Areas.

(2)Allotment Management Plan (AMP) development and on the ground management.

(3)Habitat Management Plan (HMP) development and on the ground management.

(4)Design and construction of proposed range, wildlife and watershed developments, including vegetation and riparian treatments.

(5)Supervision of livestock use and monitoring and evaluation of proposals once they have been implemented.

(6)Implementation and management of the OHV designations.

These additional costs would total about \$130,000, bringing the total annual budget required to implement and manage the plan to about \$630,000 in today's dollars.