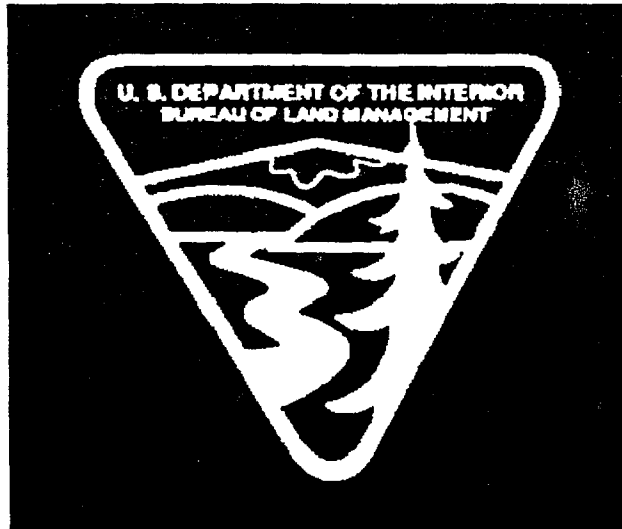


RECORD OF DECISION
FOR THE APPROVAL
OF THE
KINGMAN RESOURCE AREA
RESOURCE MANAGEMENT PLAN



Lester K. Rosenkrance
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ARIZONA STATE DIRECTOR

~~FEBRUARY~~ 1995
MARCH, 07

RECORD OF DECISION

INTRODUCTION

This Record of Decision documents the State Director's selection of an alternative from the Kingman Resource Area Proposed Resource Management Plan and Final Environmental Impact Statement (September 1993). The approved plan supersedes the following Management Framework Plans: Cerbat Mountains (1974), Black Mountains (1975) and Hualapai-Aquarius (1982). These Management Framework Plans were assessed during the development of the draft RMP and valid decisions were carried forward.

The Record of Decision states the decision, identifies the alternatives that were considered, states which alternative was environmentally preferable and identifies the reasons considered in selecting the plan. This document also summarizes the decisions of significance for each program.

The Resource Management Plan is consistent with plans and policies of state and local governments, other federal agencies, and offices of the Department of Interior and the Bureau of Land Management. All practicable means to avoid or minimize environmental harm have been adopted.

DECISION

It is my decision to approve and authorize implementation of Alternative 2 of the Kingman Resource Area Proposed Resource Management Plan/Final Environmental Impact Statement. This includes the relevant and appropriate portions of "Management Guidance Common to All Alternatives", Alternative 1 as referenced by Alternative 2, and Appendix 30. This decision includes minor changes to the text of the Proposed Plan and changes as noted in the section of this document entitled "Protest Resolution".

Major decisions established by this plan approval are summarized as follows:

Minerals

Subject to NEPA review, approximately 1,555,000 acres of federal minerals will be open to locatable mineral exploration and development, mineral material sales, and mineral leasing.

Approximately 24,300 acres will be withdrawn from mineral entry in areas of critical environmental concern (Table 12 and Map 10) subject to a mineral report.

Lands

Public lands, low in resource values and adjacent to growing communities, have been identified for disposal through exchange. Exchanges are discretionary and may be accomplished, if determined to be in the public interest, and the private lands would block up public land with high resource values and provide for more efficient management of public lands. Disposal, preferably through exchange, of public lands would also be considered for mine expansion and industrial development where public land is currently utilized for mining operations or needed for industrial purposes important for the economic betterment and growth of local communities. Exchanges may also be accomplished to consolidate split estate lands. Sale of public land would be reserved for resolution of trespass and for disposal of small scattered isolated tracts.

Approximately 6,165 acres of public land near communities have been reserved for qualifying Recreation and Public Purpose Act uses.

All major utility systems are required to route their systems through the designated corridors under the Approved Resource Management Plan where practicable. Alternate routes will be considered on a case by case basis.

Mountain-top communications sites will be restricted to the eleven designated sites. Communication site plans are needed on all sites with priority placed on the Goldroad Crest and Getz Peak sites.

Commercial leases will be considered only if there is substantial evidence the facility or use is needed and there are no other suitable lands available.

Watershed (Soil, Water, and Air) Resources

A water quality monitoring program will be designed in consultation with Arizona Department of Environmental Quality.

Vegetative Products Management

Within the suitability for harvest of each vegetative product, public demand will be determined and met.

Rangeland Management

Management of rangeland resources will be guided by the Cerbat/Black Mountains (1978) and Hualapai-Aquarius (1981) grazing environmental impact statements and range program summaries.

Where analysis of monitoring data indicates a need for a change in the management of forage available for ungulates, those changes will be determined on a case-by-case basis so management is consistent with stated resource objectives.

All decisions proposed for activity management plans will be developed through consultation, cooperation and coordination with interested publics, affected interests, local governments, tribes, and other agencies, and will conform to Bureau policy.

Cultural Resources

A Cultural Resource Management Plan will be prepared, allocating cultural resources to specific use categories assuring management for their most appropriate uses.

The Carrow-Stephens Historical Area would become a special recreation management area and be designated an Area of Critical Environmental Concern.

Recreation Management

Six special recreation management areas would be established for intensive recreation management.

Two parcels of land would be made available for concessionaire-operated recreational vehicle parks/campgrounds.

The BLM administered land will be managed in accordance with the Visual Resource Management classes. These classes apply only to public lands managed by BLM and do not apply to private, state or other federally managed lands.

Wilderness Management

A wilderness management plan will be prepared for all wilderness area (plans may be part of an ecosystem plan). Implementation of management actions identified in each plan will follow.

Wild and Scenic Rivers

Eligible river segments will be managed so as to not impair their suitability for inclusion in the National Wild and Scenic River System.

Wildlife Habitat Management

Habitat management plans will be revised or amended according to need for Black Mountains, Hualapai, Aquarius, Cerbat-Music and Bill Williams-Crossman Peak.

Thirteen wildlife movement corridors and lands between mountains in southern Mohave County are identified and will be managed to maintain, develop or reestablish natural movement of wildlife species.

Special Status Species Management

The RMP designates specific habitat areas of several special status species as Areas of Critical Environmental Concern. The designations include goals, objectives and management prescriptions for each Area of Critical Environmental Concern. Endangered and candidate species for which Areas of Critical Environmental Concern are proposed include Arizona cliffrose, white-margined penstemon, Hualapai Mexican vole, Sonoran desert tortoise, bald eagle and a cadre of native southwestern fishes.

Riparian Area Management

For each riparian area the following will be completed: inventory to assess current functioning condition, determine desired condition, schedule management implementation and develop monitoring studies and evaluation schedules to measure management effectiveness.

Hazardous Materials Management

Hazards to the public and natural resources on public lands from toxic materials will be mitigated.

Wild and Free-Roaming Horse and Burro Management

Herd Management Area Plans will be developed, maintained and revised or updated as necessary to respond to changing conditions and to achieve a thriving ecological balance.

Wildfire Management

Priority areas where fire suppression is required to prevent resource damage or loss of life and property have been identified.

When a wildfire occurs, procedures for rehabilitation outlined in BLM Manual Handbook H-1742-1 will be implemented. These procedures include formation of an interdisciplinary team to assess both on- and off-site resource damage and potential for future damage.

Prescribed burn plans, including natural ignition, will be written for areas where wildfire is an integral part of the ecosystem and where human, resource, structural, and other values have a low risk potential for destruction by wildfire.

Resource Access Travel Management

Activity plans will review and evaluate existing roads for continued maintenance, improvement, closure or reclamation. The goal will be to maintain or reduce the number of miles of road per section of land to the minimum necessary to achieve resource management goals and to protect critical resources and comply with state water quality standards.

Support Services

Easements across private and state lands for roads, trails, and improvements projects will be acquired as identified in the Approved Resource Management Plan.

Law Enforcement

A law enforcement plan will be written to address the projected law enforcement needs.

Special Management Areas

Twelve areas of critical environmental concern, covering a total of 315,712 acres, are designated. This designation is needed to help protect endangered species, special status plants, cultural values, scenic values and wildlife and riparian values. The specific goals, objectives and management prescriptions vary according to the values found in each designated area.

The Three Rivers Area of Critical Environmental Concern includes an area of land managed by the BLM's Lower Gila Resource Area. This area including Lower Gila lands has been fully analyzed in the Kingman Resource Area Proposed Resource Management Plan and Final Environmental Impact Statement and implementation by both resource areas will be initiated.

PROTEST RESOLUTION

Three protest letters were received concerning issues raised in the Resource Management Plan. All protests have been resolved. Through the protest resolution procedure BLM agrees to the following:

1. All references to the "Cerbat Herd Management Area" are changed to the "Cerbat Herd Area" within the Approved Resource Management Plan and Final Environmental Impact Statement.
2. The area referenced in Map 9a (page 56) as the "Cerbat Herd Management Area" and the "Cerbat HMA-Acquisition Area" will be labeled as the "Cerbat Herd Area". This area has been documented as having wild horses before the passage of the Wild Horse and Burro Act of December 21, 1971 (Public Law: 92-195).
3. Map 9a (page 56) is amended to show the Herd Areas and Map 9b is added to show the Herd Management Areas.
4. A study will be implemented to determine the boundaries of the Cerbat Herd Management Area. A maximum of two years will be taken to complete this study and designate a Cerbat Herd Management Area using a "Plan Amendment" process. The area identified by the title of "Cerbat HMA Acquisition Area" is to be identified as the "Cerbat Herd Area Habitat Acquisition and Study Area". The intent of this designation is to follow through on the studies identified in the Proposed RMP concerning habitat and other requirements needed to support a viable population of wild horses.
5. All parts of the text which state or imply that forage allocation will be "30% for bighorn and 10% for deer" are changed to read "a 40% forage allocation for big game"
6. Table 10. is amended to read:

Table 10
*PERCENT FORAGE ALLOCATION RATIOS

Big Game	Wild Burros	Cattle
40%	30%	30%

* Forage is allocated to animal units at the ratio of cattle 1:1, bighorn sheep 5:1, deer 4:1, and wild burros 2:1.

7. The designation of "Herd Management Area" located in Township 13 North, Ranges 8 and 9 West, Gila and Salt River Meridian as shown in Map 9a (page 56) is dropped. The area retains its designation as a "Herd Area".
8. Any implied or specific references to setting numbers for any ungulate are in error and are removed from the Approved Resource Management Plan.

INCLUSIONS TO THE GLOSSARY

HERD AREA: The geographic area identified as having been used by a herd (Wild and free-roaming horses or burros) as its habitat in 1971.

HERD MANAGEMENT AREA: A "Herd Management Area" is a herd area (or any portion) identified for maintenance and management of wild horses or burros through decisions resulting from the land use planning process, including public involvement.

ALTERNATIVES CONSIDERED

Three alternatives were considered:

Alternative 1 the No Action Alternative which describes the current management as guided by the decisions from the existing Management Framework Plans.

Alternative 2 the environmentally preferred alternative, emphasizes the need to maintain ecological processes rather than just high profile parts of the environment.

Alternative 3 is similar to alternative 2 but places more emphasis on recreation and less emphasis on mineral material disposal and on areas for special management.

ALTERNATIVES CONSIDERED, BUT ELIMINATED FROM FURTHER STUDY

Two other alternatives were considered in addition to the three that were analyzed. These alternatives were titled the "Biodiversity Alternative" and the "Recreation Alternative". The biodiversity alternative placed the highest priority on maintaining and improving watershed (natural environment) values. The recreation alternative resolved planning issues while emphasizing developed and undeveloped recreation opportunities.

The Preferred Alternative (Alternative 2) incorporated the goals and objectives of the Biodiversity alternative. Alternative 3 included more recreation development than the above referenced recreation alternative.

REASONS FOR DECISION

The plan was identified as being driven by six major issues: 1a. Recreation Planning and 1b. Off-Highway Vehicles; 2. Special Area Designations; 3. Wildlife Habitat/Threatened and Endangered Species; 4. Riparian/Wetland Management; 5. Land Tenure; and 6. Salable, Locatable and Leasable Minerals.

Alternative 1 does not provide enough emphasis on any of these issues. It is especially lacking in direction for Recreation Planning, Special Area Designations and Riparian /Wetland Management. A Management Situation Analysis was completed in 1990 on the Kingman Resource. The adequacy of current management was discussed in section V of that Document. The general conclusion that can be drawn is that: The current management activities described in the three Management Framework Plans are inadequate, because most of the decisions and recommended actions need to be updated or modified to respond to the increasing demands from the general public as well as the need to manage ecological systems rather than individual parts of the system.

Alternative 2 provides the best combination of actions for resolving the planning issues and achieving multiple use objectives while protecting the environment. This was the consensus agreement among the interdisciplinary

team of preparers of the Resource Management Plan. This alternative considered all relevant information concerning the issues identified during the scoping process for the Resource Management Plan. This alternative stresses: the need to use interdisciplinary teams for resolving issues; managing ecological processes; and communication among agencies and the public.

Alternative 3 overemphasizes Recreation planning to the possible detriment of Wildlife Habitat/Threatened and Endangered species and to Riparian/Wetland Management. This alternative responds well to the expected outdoor recreation needs of the general public due to projected population growth for the area. There would likely be a decrease in the functioning of ecological processes and eventually lead to preservation management of the parts of the ecological system remaining.

PUBLIC COMMENT

Scoping for the RMP occurred during the period of September 1988 to June 1990. There were over 700 people on the mailing list. There were 103 comment letters received on the draft RMP.

During the development of the Draft, public input was solicited through public meetings, Resource Management Plan updates, and meetings held with individuals and groups. During the development of the Proposed Plan public comments were solicited through public hearings, public meetings, and meetings with individuals and groups.

MITIGATION

To the extent possible management practices and design features that avoid or minimize environmental harm have been included as part Alternative 2. Some of these design features or management practices are described below:

Surface-disturbing activities would require reclamation of sites to a suitable condition using a combination of techniques that may include: reseeding, changing management practices, and building erosion control structures.

The use of Best Management Practices designed to attain State water quality standards through grazing management, such as: adjusting livestock numbers, altering season of use, changing kind or class of livestock, development of new range improvements, etc.

Cultural resource protection measures involving fencing, stabilization and education would be developed for selected cultural resources that have either a high level of significance or a history of vandalism. Selected cultural resources would be stabilized or restored to stop deterioration.

IMPLEMENTATION

The Resource Management Plan was an issue driven document. The planning issues were identified by the resource area's specialists, the district management team and the public during the scoping process. There were six major planning issues identified in the scoping process:

- Issue 1: (a) Recreation Planning
 (b) Off-Highway Vehicles
- Issue 2: Special Area Designation

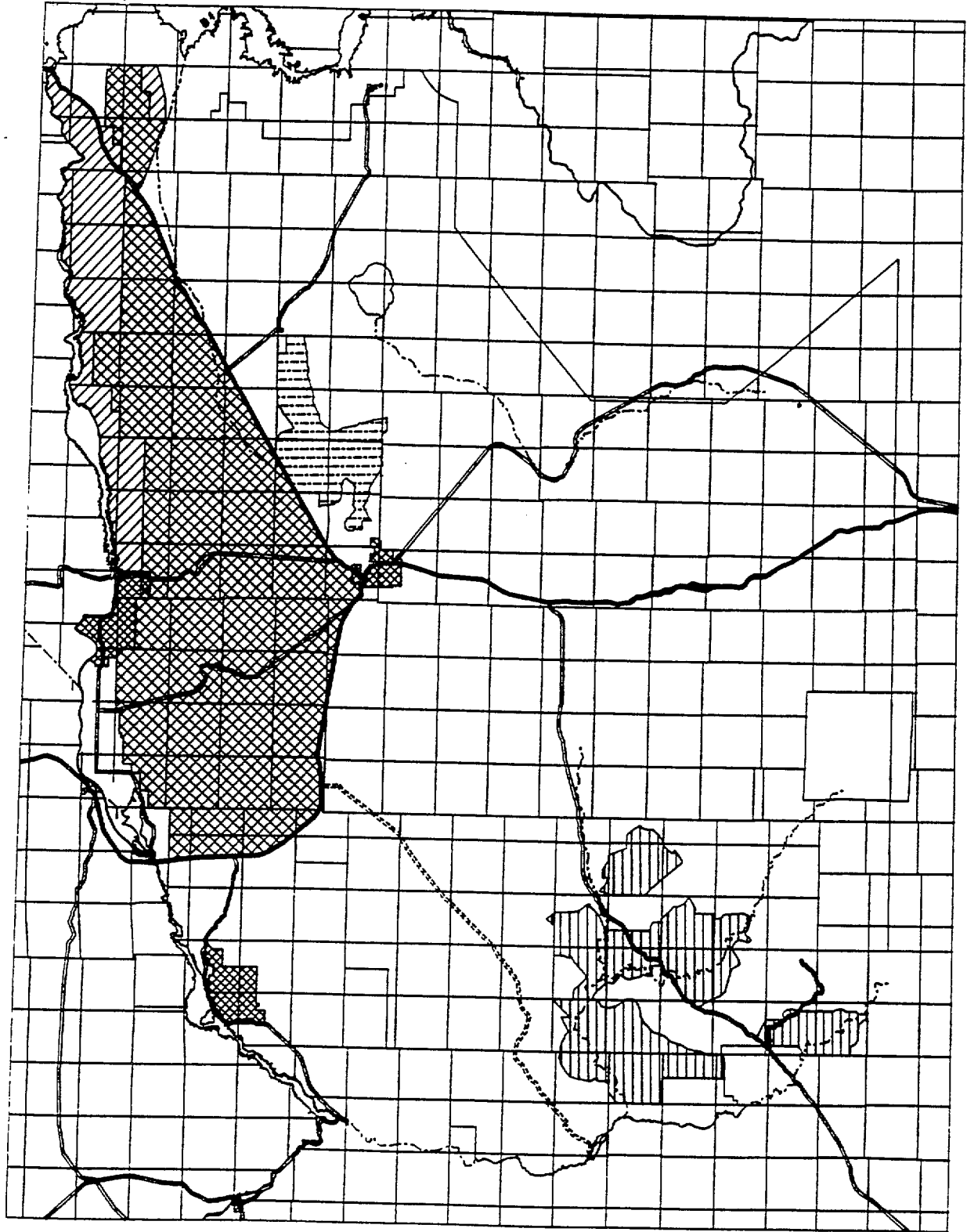
- Issue 3: Wildlife Habitat/Threatened and Endangered Species
- Issue 4: Riparian/Wetland Area Management
- Issue 5: Land Tenure
- Issue 6: Salable, Locatable and Leasable Minerals





In addition to the planning issues described there were 14 "Management Concerns" identified (pages 9-15). Management Concerns are those items which did not meet the criteria to be identified as an issue. Management concerns are procedures or land use allocations that were identified during the preparation of this Resource Management Plan as needing to be changed.

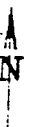
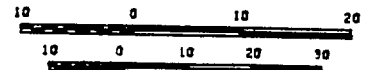
The goals and objectives, management actions, and monitoring and evaluation in the Resource Management Plan were developed to resolve the issues and management concerns. Implementation of the decisions in the Approved Resource Management Plan will address these issues and management concerns.

An Implementation Plan for the Approved Resource Management Plan will be developed, within 90 days, following the issuance of this Record of Decision. The Implementation Plan lists all the decisions made in the Approved Resource Management Plan. It also defines procedures for accomplishing and tracking these decisions. Public participation will be utilized during the implementation process.

WILD HORSE & BURRO HERD AREAS

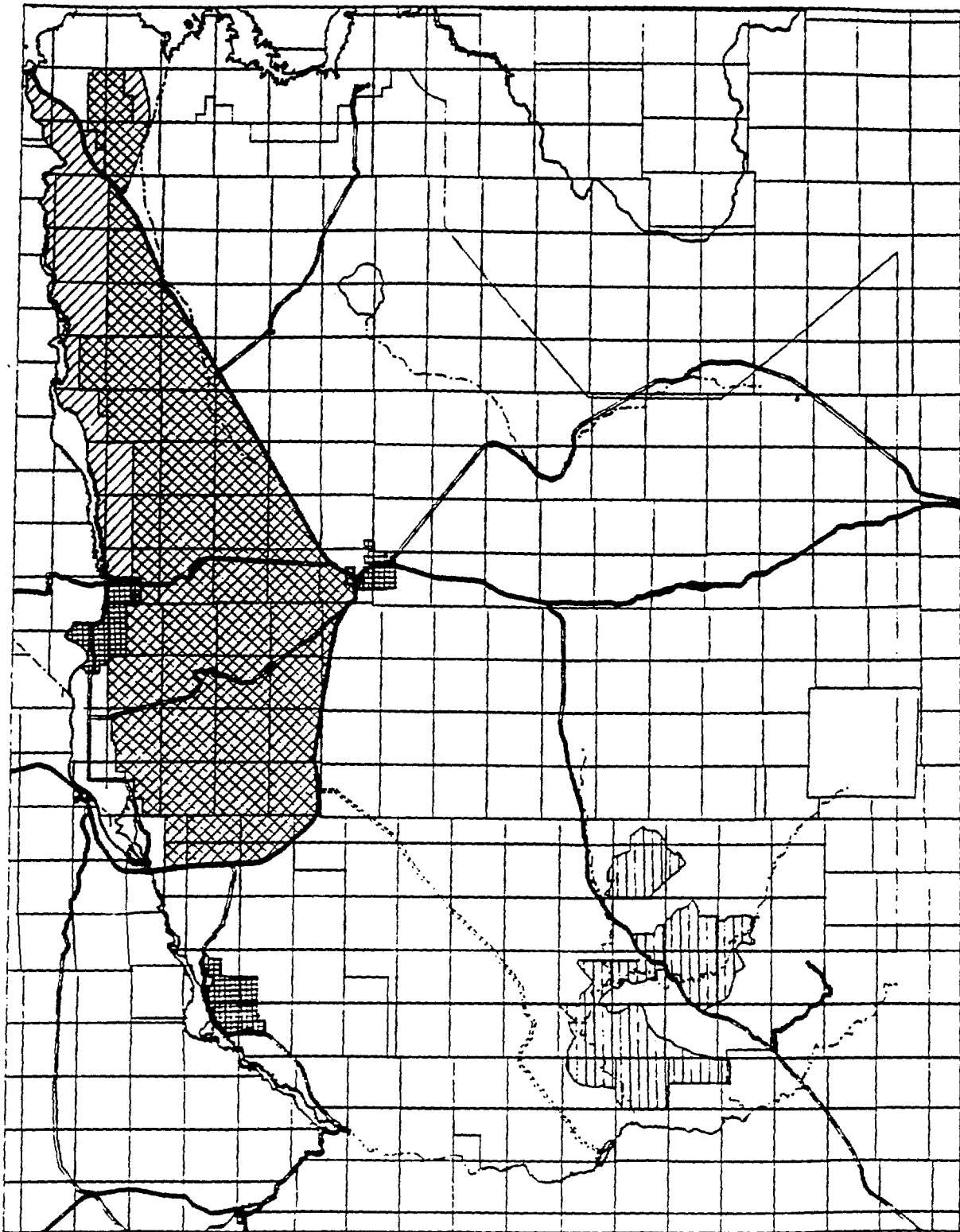





-  BIG SANDY HERD AREA
-  BLACK MOUNTAIN HERD AREA
(BLM PLANNING AREA)
-  BLACK MOUNTAIN HERD AREA
(LAKE MEAD NATIONAL RECREATION AREA)
-  CERBAT HERD AREA

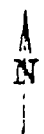


Map 9a

WILD HORSE & BURRO HERD MANAGEMENT AREAS



-  BIG SANDY HERD MANAGEMENT AREA
-  BLACK MOUNTAIN HERD MANAGEMENT AREA (BLM PLANNING AREA)
-  BLACK MOUNTAIN HERD MANAGEMENT AREA (LAKE MEAD NATIONAL RECREATION AREA)



Map 9b