



# United States Department of the Interior



## BUREAU OF LAND MANAGEMENT

Mount Lewis Field Office

50 Bastian Road

Battle Mountain, Nevada 89820

Phone: 775-635-4000

Fax: 775-635-4034

[http://www.blm.gov/nv/st/en/fo/battle\\_mountain\\_field.html](http://www.blm.gov/nv/st/en/fo/battle_mountain_field.html)

In Reply Refer To:

### MEMORANDUM

**To:** Michael Vermeys, Assistant Field Manager, Renewable Resources, Mount Lewis Field Office

**From:** Mike Neff and J. Gant Massey, Ph.D., Environmental Protection Specialists, Minerals, Mount Lewis Field Office

**Date:** October 2, 2015

**In Re:** Cattle observed during 3809 (Minerals Inspection) driving tour of northwest Mount Lewis Field Office

On September 28, 2015, Mike Neff and Gant Massey, Ecological Protection Specialists, Minerals, Mount Lewis Field Office, made a driving tour of mining areas around the northeastern quadrant of the Mount Lewis Field Office. During that tour, these specialists observed approximately 400 head of cattle across the Argenta Grazing Allotment (Figure 1). Cattle were primarily clustered around water sources (both natural and hauled) on unfenced, intermingled public and private lands. Areas of cattle concentration (approximate numbers) are presented in Table 1, with mapped documentation in Figure 1 and photo documentation as noted.

**Table 1.** Approximate number of cattle observed during 3809 driving tour

Site	Count	Photo #s
Whirlwind Valley	120 head	1-10
Slaven Canyon	115 head	11-22
The Park	60 head	24-37
Crumb Canyon to Indian Creek	30 head	23, 38-42
Ferris Creek	30 head	43-49
Greystone Mine Road	3 head	50
Trout Creek Area	42 head	51-56
<b>TOTAL (approximately)</b>	<b>400 head</b>	

While the purpose of the driving tour was not to assess ecological condition, in the professional opinion of the two specialists, range condition in areas of greatest cattle concentration was poor (60-80% utilization), with pockets of moderate (40-60% utilization) and extreme utilization (80-95%). This opinion is based upon Mr. Neff's 39 years' experience in natural resource management, including 23 years as a Range Management Specialist and 16 years as an Environmental Protection Specialist, and upon Dr. Massey's 20 years' experience in natural resource management, including a doctorate in plant ecology.



Photos 1-10, cows found in Whirlwind Valley



Photo 2, 1<sup>st</sup> bunch of cows, middle of photo



Photo 3, 2<sup>nd</sup> bunch of cows, along power line Whirlwind Valley on private ground



Photo 4, 1/4 miles from only water source in Whirlwind Valley



Photo 5, windshield view of cows near water source adjacent to the water source



Photo 6 shows the brand that cows were wearing



Photos 7-10 show the severe grazing found up to 100 yards in any direction around this water source, no vegetation observed, area resembled a feed lot, ground covered with cow pies.



Photos 7-10 we observed 75-100 head of cows, cows go out from here to graze on BLM ground



Photos 11-21 show the cows found in Slaven Canyon Photo 12, cows at entrance to canyon



Photos 13-15 show the Barite mining locations within the Slaven Canyon area



Photo #15, Halaburton site in background



Photos 16-20, 2<sup>nd</sup> group of cows observed



Photos 17-18 show the livestock laying down near the water trough located in the middle of the Canyon



Photo #19, shows the cows around the blue water troughs Photo 20, shows the brand on cows



Photo #21 shows additional cows in the draw

Photo 22, 1<sup>st</sup> group of cows in Crumb Canyon



Photo 23, 1<sup>st</sup> cow seen in Hilltop Canyon road to the Park

Photo 24, 2<sup>nd</sup> cow seen in Hilltop Canyon on the



Photo 25, last cow seen on the way to the Park    Photo 26, 1<sup>st</sup> group of cows, north end of the Park, photos 26-33 groups of livestock found in different areas of the Park



Photos 27-28 show the same group of cows seen in previous photo but closer



Photo 29 shows 2<sup>nd</sup> bunch center of picture middle of the Park



Photo 30 shows small group of cows (2) in



Photo 31, last bunch of cows (3 head) in Park



Photo 32 shows 5-6 head leaving Park area

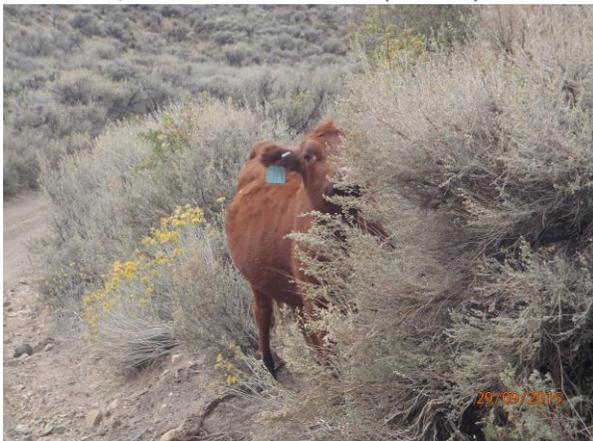


Photo 33 shows last cow seen leaving Park area  
Canyon



Photos 34-39 show cattle observed in Crumb



Photo 35, cows at Marsville summit, water haul  
summit area going south to Ferris Creek



Photo 36, cows observed leaving the Marsville



Photos 37-38, groups of cattle seen along Indian Creek south of Marsville Summit to Ferris Cr.



Photo 39, last cows seen south of Ferris Creek along the private ground close to water

Photos 40-46 show cattle observed at Ferris



Photo 41 shows the brand seen on cows Ferris Creek



Photo 42-43 show one bunch of cows next to



Photo #43 same cows as in previous photo



Photo #44 shows mother and baby at Ferris Cr.



Photo #45 shows a lone cow at this location  
Creek



Photo #46 shows last group of cows at Ferris



Photo #47 shows 3 cows west of Greystone Mine



Photo #48 shows groups of cows on flats west  
of the Le Roy Horn Ranch, photos 48-54 show the livestock around the water trough east of Old  
8A.



Photos 49-50 show the different groups of livestock around the water trough off the pipeline going east west down to Nevada State highway 305.



Photos 51-52 show the same cow we were trying to see the brand, different from all other brands seen on the Argenta Allotment



Photos 53-54 show the group of cattle farthest from the existing water trough in the area west of the LeRoy Horn Ranch