

**Salt Lake District Office  
Bureau of Land Management**



**Proposed Pony Express Plan Amendment  
North Oquirrh Mountains**

**Environmental Assessment No. UT-020-96-36**

**Location:** Tooele County, Utah

**Project Type:** Program planning for 14,254 acres, including 8,291 acres of acquired lands

**Date of Preparation:** August, 1997

**Field Office Contact:** Mike Nelson, Realty Specialist, 801-977-4355  
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## A Finding of No Significant Impact

for the  
PROPOSED AMENDMENT  
to

Pony Express Resource Management Plan  
Salt Lake District

Based on the analysis provided in Environmental Analysis No. UT-020-96-036 (attached), I conclude that the Proposed Amendment to the above mentioned land use management plan within the Pony Express Planning Area, will not create significant impacts to the human environment and therefore an Environmental Impact Statement is not required.

This proposed amendment specifically addresses the management of resources and land uses in the North Oquirrh Mountains on a total of 14,254 acres of public land, of which 8,291 acres have been acquired since the plan was completed in 1990. The proposed amendment also amends the land tenure adjustment criteria throughout the Pony Express RMP area.

Margaret Wyatt  
Acting District Manager  
Salt Lake District  
Bureau of Land Management

8/11/97  
Date

# **Salt Lake District Office Bureau of Land Management**

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## **Proposed Pony Express Resource Management Plan Amendment Pony Express Resource Area Salt Lake City, Utah**

**Environmental Assessment No. UT-020-96-36**

**Location:** Pony Express Planning Unit including Salt Lake, Tooele and Utah Counties

**Project Type and Background:** The Bureau of Land Management, Salt Lake District has completed several land exchanges since 1990 resulting in public ownership of a large block of public land in the North Oquirrh Mountains. Currently the existing Pony Express Resource Management Plan provides little in the way of guiding management decisions or allocations for acquired lands. This proposed amendment and alternatives considered are intended to provide for a full range of possible management actions on these acquired lands as well for potential future land acquisitions. In addition, several site specific projects have been proposed for the enhancement of watershed and wildlife resources.

**Date of Preparation:** August 1997

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**LIST OF ACRONYMS:**

<b>AUM</b>	<b>Animal Unit Month</b>
<b>BLM</b>	<b>Bureau of Land Management</b>
<b>EIS</b>	<b>Environmental Impact Statement</b>
<b>ERMA</b>	<b>Extensive Recreation Management Area</b>
<b>FLEFA</b>	<b>Federal Land Exchange Facilitation Act</b>
<b>FLPMA</b>	<b>Federal Land Policy and Management Act</b>
<b>HMP</b>	<b>Habitat Management Plan</b>
<b>NEPA</b>	<b>National Environmental Policy Act</b>
<b>NOMA</b>	<b>North Oquirrh Management Area</b>
<b>OHV</b>	<b>Off-Highway Vehicle</b>
<b>RMP</b>	<b>Resource Management Plan</b>
<b>ROW(s)</b>	<b>Right(s)-of-way</b>
<b>SHPO</b>	<b>State Historic Preservation Office</b>
<b>SRMA</b>	<b>Special Recreation Management Area</b>
<b>T&amp;E</b>	<b>Threatened and Endangered</b>
<b>VRM</b>	<b>Visual Resource Management</b>

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**SALT LAKE DISTRICT OFFICE**  
**PROPOSED PONY EXPRESS RESOURCE MANAGEMENT PLAN**  
**AMENDMENT**

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**CHAPTER I: PURPOSE AND NEED**

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**Purpose and Need for the Proposed Action:**

The Pony Express Resource Management Plan (RMP) was completed in January 1990. In that RMP, the Northwest Oquirrh Mountains received only cursory discussion, mainly because the area consisted at the time, of approximately 6,000 acres of unmanageable isolated tracts of public lands without legal access. No consideration was made as to the possible consolidation and manageability of these lands.

Beginning in 1991 with the Envirocare/Rubey exchange, U-65684, the Bureau of Land Management (BLM), Salt Lake District has completed six land exchanges in the North Oquirrh Mountains resulting in the acquisition of 8,291 acres of additional lands in the area. This has resulted in a manageable block of public lands containing 14,254 surface acres including two points of legal access. See Maps 1 and 2 for the general location of this block of public lands and corresponding ownership patterns.

The Oquirrhs are the closest block of public land in the Salt Lake District to Salt Lake City and associated metropolitan areas. These public lands are within as little as 30 minutes and 35 road miles from more than one million people. The Tooele Valley to the west of the Oquirrh's is one of the fastest growing areas in the State, with over 3,000 new residents since 1990. There is currently, and would continue to be, an ever increasing demand to use the public lands in this area. This would require careful and complete planning in order to properly preserve the resource values in the area while still allowing for multiple use and a sustainable healthy ecosystem in this special area.

This proposed plan amendment would not only provide for management guidance, decisions and allocations in the North Oquirrh Management Area (NOMA) but would also correct certain deficiencies in the Pony Express RMP that no longer accommodate the numerous changes that have taken place since 1990.

**Results of Scoping Analysis:**

The BLM provided several opportunities in order to get local and regional publics involved with this planning effort. An open house was conducted on July 31, 1996, in the Tooele County Court House, to inform the public of planning needs, answer questions, and invite participation in this effort. Another public meeting was also held in the community of Pine Canyon to answer potential community questions regarding this planning effort.

Additionally, newspaper articles were published in the Deseret News (July 29, 1996) and the Tooele Transcript (August 1, 1996) also informing the public of the intended planning process and to solicit public input. Federal Register, Volume 61, No. 122 / Monday, July 24, 1996, (page 32460) also published information on this proposed amendment and invited opportunities for additional public comment on this proposal. Approximately 29 written comments were received and are summarized in Chapter V, Consultation and Coordination.

The opportunity to review and comment on this RMP amendment would also be provided to other federal, state and county governments to assure the plan is consistent with existing planning documents of these agencies.

As a result of the public scoping procedures used to inform the public of the opportunity to participate in this planning process, several opportunities and concerns were identified using public input as a guide to formulate the issues that needed to be addressed in detail in this plan amendment. These issues are described in the following sections.

In addition to those issues considered for detailed analysis, other issues were also considered but rejected for the purpose of detailed analysis. Rationale for rejecting these issues for detailed analysis is described below.

**Issues Considered but Rejected for Detailed Analysis:**

**Wilderness Study Areas:** As of this writing, time constraints have not allowed for the intensive inventories needed to determine if these acquired lands have those characteristics that would suggest their designation as a Wilderness Study Area. Further, it was not determined prudent to postpone planning needs for the management of this area in order to conduct intensive inventories at this time, as none of the preliminary management scenarios would be anticipated to create any major changes in the land surface or with existing land uses. As time and budget allows, it is the intent of the BLM to inventory these lands, in coordination with the public, to determine if wilderness characteristics are present and if any future planning actions are necessary to provide additional protection for those values.

**Issues to be Considered for Detailed Analysis:**

**Issue 1: Lands and Realty Management:** Given the extensive growth occurring in the resource area, how would the lands and realty program be managed in order to provide for needed community growth and development while balancing the need for maintaining a healthy and sustainable ecosystem? Based on these concerns, the following elements would be addressed; land tenure adjustments, additional land exchange criteria, future management of land acquisitions, identification of additional disposal tracts, retention areas, and rights-of-way (ROWs) management.

**Issue 2: Watershed and Vegetation Management:** Due to unregulated grazing over a long period of time on some of these acquired lands, most desirable plant species have been replaced by noxious weeds and annuals. Enhancement of vegetation on bench areas below 5,200 feet elevation and noxious weed control should be addressed in order to determine future levels of grazing allocations and wildlife habitat use. Protection of the unique hybrid oak stands found in the area should also be considered.

Due to uncontrolled grazing and loss of perennial species as stated above, in addition to poorly planned road development in the past, there is a problem with erosion. The need for erosion control and reconstruction of certain roads should be considered. Based on these concerns, the following watershed and vegetation management concerns would be addressed: grazing management, forage allocations, fencing, water projects, vegetation enhancement and modifications, hybrid oak protection, erosion control, and water rights.

**Issue 3: Wildlife and Associated Habitat:** Important deer and elk herds are known to occur on these acquired lands as well as a considerable range of non game species. How should habitat be protected in order to ensure the sustainability of these herds? Sensitive raptor species also occur in the area. What kind of use restrictions may be necessary to protect these animals during sensitive life cycles such as breeding or fledging periods? Should the BLM consider the introduction of the Rio Grand turkey in the NOMA? Based on these concerns, the following wildlife related issues would be addressed: crucial habitat protection or enhancement needs, and turkey introductions.

**Issue 4: Recreation Management, Including Access and Off Highway Vehicle Use:** Due to its close location to the Salt lake Valley and the increased population of the Tooele Valley, the NOMA along with the eastern part of Tooele County would see a dramatic increase in public usage over the next 20 years. It is important to determine any potential recreation developments necessary to provide recreation opportunities in the NOMA without damaging the important resource values in the area.

Further, the acquisition of 8,291 acres in the NOMA included legal access to the area that was previously unavailable to the general public. Certain local individuals, however, have had discreet use of the area for many years. It would be important to identify roads and trails to be used as well as any seasonal restrictions necessary,

as the area would see increased use in the coming years. In particular, hunting access is a primary concern in the area. Local concerns regarding the possibility of increased traffic include dust abatement and the increased presence of outside influences in a small remote community. Based on these concerns, the following issues would be addressed: recreational developments, Off Highway Vehicles (OHV) designations, trail designation, and development and signs.

**Issue 5: Minerals Management:** How would the BLM allow for the continued exploration and development of the mineral estate located on these acquired lands?

**Issue 6: Cultural Resource Management:** How would BLM manage cultural resources on acquired lands? The following cultural resource related decisions would be addressed: inventory and use classification.

**Issue 7: Visual Resource Management (VRM):** How would BLM manage and classify visual resources on these newly acquired lands? The following visual resource related decisions would be addressed:

What areas should be designated VRM Class I, where no changes in visual element are allowed.

What areas should be designated VRM Class II, where changes in the basic visual elements caused by a management activity should not be evident in the landscape.

What areas should be designated VRM Class III, where changes in the basic visual elements caused by a management activity may be evident in the landscape but should be subordinate to it?

What areas should be designated VRM Class IV, where changes may dominate the view, be the major focus of viewer attention, and change the original composition and character of the landscape?

**Issue 8: Fire Management:** How should BLM provide for fire management on these acquired lands?

**Planning Criteria:** The following criteria have been established to guide the development of the RMP Amendment.

- (1) The overall objective of land use planning for the Pony Express Planning Area would be sustained multiple use of the public land.
- (2) The RMP Amendment would be consistent to the maximum extent with the management goals and objectives of the Pony Express RMP as well as with the plans and management programs of local and State governments, consistent with Federal laws and regulations, and coordinated with other affected State and Federal agencies.
- (3) Participation by the public would be a key factor in decision-making.
- (4) Social and economic impacts to local communities resulting from public land management would be considered.
- (5) The planning process would identify those lands which would best serve public needs by being retained in Federal ownership, and those lands which are difficult or uneconomical to manage or would best serve important public objectives by their disposal.
- (6) Decisions would be made for:
  - Land Tenure Adjustments
  - Off-Highway Vehicle Use Areas
  - Fluid Mineral Leasing Categories
  - Visual Resource Management Classes

•Forage Allocations

- (7) The management, use and protection of water sources, water, riparian zones, and other related values would be given a high priority.
- (8) All proposed planning decisions would apply only to public lands. However, some of the figures used for analysis do reflect total acreage of public and private lands in order that cumulative impacts could be ascertained.

**Plan Implementation and Monitoring:** The Proposed RMP Amendment presented in this document would be implemented over a period of years. The ability of the Salt Lake District to complete the identified projects is directly dependent upon available funding. The priorities for accomplishment would be reviewed annually and may be revised based on changes in law, regulations, policy, or economic factors. A monitoring program would be developed to determine the effectiveness of the proposed decisions and the need for future modification.

**Conformance With Land Use Plan:** The Federal Land Policy and Management Act of 1976 (FLPMA) requires that prior to the BLM making a decision or taking an action on public lands, it must have been previously considered in the RMP process. The majority of the NOMA lands now being considered in this proposed plan amendment have never been incorporated into or considered in any of the previous planning documents for this resource area. Thus, this proposed amendment is being considered in order to provide a management framework for these newly acquired lands.

**Relationship to Statutes, Regulations or Other Plans:** The Tooele County General Plan, completed in November 1995, provides for the preservation of open space for its intrinsic pristine mountain views and for watershed systems. The county also looked at the possibility of developing recreation resources, such as county maintained roads and creating trails/trail systems. In order to protect the open space of the mountain and foothills, the County created a sensitive lands designation, which promotes low or no impact uses. This designation also protects the crucial deer and elk habitat found on the mountains.

Additionally, FLPMA mandates that the BLM provide for multiple use management of public lands while protecting the various resource values. FLPMA also allows for the exchange of public lands when the exchange is determined to be in the public interest. The lands previously acquired were in the public interest as would be the lands which may be acquired in the future. The acquisition of lands is also in conformance with the various activity plans which have been developed for specific areas.

The amendment of existing RMPs is permitted within 43 CFR, Part 1610.5-5.

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## **CHAPTER II: ALTERNATIVES CONSIDERED INCLUDING THE PROPOSED ACTION**

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This chapter describes three different proposed management scenarios for acquired lands within the NOMA that were formulated based on the public scoping procedures and or BLM/Council on Environmental Quality, NEPA and planning related requirements. These alternatives also direct the amendment of certain selected decisions regarding the lands and other programs.

### **Management Decisions Common to All Alternatives:**

Certain decisions regarding the acquired lands are common to each alternative, except the no action alternative.

Decisions for Visual Resource Management, Cultural Resources and Fire are the same in Alternatives 2 and 3. Portions of decisions for the wildlife program are also the same in Alternatives 2 and 3.

### **Alternative 1: No Action/No Additional Planning Authorized**

Under this alternative, no new planning decisions would be provided for these acquired lands. Further use authorizations would not be allowed.

#### **◆ *Issue 1 (under Chapter II, Alternative 1) : Land and Realty Management***

No additional land tenure exchange criteria would be added to provide additional flexibility for community growth and development nor for the acquisition of important or sensitive resources.

**Management of future land acquisitions:** No new decisions would be added to allow for the management of future land acquisitions. Future acquisitions would essentially remain closed to public land laws until further planning is completed.

**Identification of additional disposal tracts:** No new tracts of land would be available for disposal under FLPMA sales procedures.

**Retention Areas:** All acquired lands would be retained in federal ownership.

**ROW Exclusion/Avoidance Areas:** No new areas would be identified as exclusion or avoidance ROW areas. ROWs would be considered on a case by case basis on existing public lands within the NOMA except for acquired lands where current planning would not allow them to be authorized.

**Withdrawals:** No new areas would be identified for withdrawal.

#### **◆ *Issue 2 (under Chapter II, Alternative 1): Watershed and Vegetation Management***

**Grazing Management:** Continue to authorize 250 head of cattle from May 16 through June 15 and from September 16 to October 15, equaling 500 AUMs. Change of livestock class would not be considered. No new grazing would be authorized in any other area of the NOMA.

**Forage Allocations:** No new forage allocations would be authorized, range or wildlife.

**Projects:** fencing, water projects, vegetation enhancement/modification: No new projects would be authorized.

**Hybrid oak protection:** No additional protection would be authorized.

**Erosion Control:** methods or projects: No additional erosion control projects would be authorized.

**Water rights:** No additional water rights would be pursued.

◆ ***Issue 3 (under Chapter II, Alternative 1): Wildlife and Associated Habitat***

**Crucial habitat enhancement needs:** No habitat protection or improvement projects would be allowed.

**Introductions/Reintroduction:** Further wildlife introduction/reintroduction would not be allowed.

◆ ***Issue 4 (under Chapter II, Alternative 1): Recreation Management Including Access and OHV Use***

**Recreational Developments:** No recreational developments would be authorized.

**OHV Plan:** The area would remain closed to all forms of motorized vehicles in conformance with the existing temporary closure now in affect. This closure has been administratively modified to allow access into the NOMA on existing roads and trails from September 15 until December 5. This closure would expire on April 22, 2001.

**Trails, Signs:** No additional trails or signing would be developed.

◆ ***Issue 5 (under Chapter II, Alternative 1): Mineral Management***

In general, most forms of mineral exploration or development would continue to be allowed.

Material Sales: none  
Locatable Minerals: open- 10,613 acres  
Leasable Minerals: open- 10,613 acres

◆ ***Issue 6 (under Chapter II, Alternative 1): Cultural Resource Management***

Further inventory and classification of the cultural resources would take place as needed.

◆ ***Issue 7 (under Chapter II, Alternative 1): Visual Resource Management Classification***

No additional inventory or visual resource management designations would take place.

◆ ***Issue 8 (under Chapter II, Alternative 1): Fire Management***

The State of Utah and Tooele County would continue to provide for initial attack and fire suppression in accordance with existing agreements. Due to the developing urban interface and the significant communications sites along the mountain tops, aggressive fire suppression tactics would be used to contain 90% of the fires in the NOMA to 300 acres or less. Fire prevention signing would be installed at main entrance points.

## **Alternative 2: Proposed Action/Preferred Alternative**

### **◆ Issue 1 (under Chapter II, Alternative 2): Lands and Realty Management**

#### **Disposal Specific to the NOMA**

##### **Disposal Parcels:**

The following parcels of land in the NOMA would be considered for all forms of disposal:

- 1) T. 3 S., R. 4 W., Section 12: S $\frac{1}{2}$ SW $\frac{1}{4}$ SW $\frac{1}{4}$ NW $\frac{1}{4}$  5.00 Acres
- 2) T. 2 S., R. 4 W., Section 13: Lots 2-5 2.75 Acres

The following parcels of land in the NOMA would be considered for disposal by exchange:

- 1) T 2 S., R. 4 W., Section 11: All lands north of RR Grade 40.0 Acres (approximately)
- 2) T 3 S., R. 4 W., Section 11: All public lands 224.70 Acres

In considering exchange proposals in the NOMA, first priority would be given to private properties to be acquired within the NOMA shown on Maps 1 and 2.

The following areas would be available for exchange proposals within the NOMA only:

- 1) T. 2 S., R. 4 W., Section 11: All public lands east and south of UPRR grade 126.22 Acres  
Section 12: W $\frac{1}{2}$ NE $\frac{1}{4}$ , NW $\frac{1}{4}$ , N $\frac{1}{2}$ SW $\frac{1}{4}$ , SW $\frac{1}{4}$ SW $\frac{1}{4}$ , NW $\frac{1}{4}$ SE $\frac{1}{4}$  400.00 Acres

#### **Disposal Criteria to Apply to Entire Planning Unit:**

The following land tenure adjustment criteria would be used to create additional exchange opportunities throughout the Pony Express Resource Area:

1. Land tenure adjustments would be considered where such adjustments are in the public interest and accommodate the needs of local and State government, including needs for the economy, community growth and expansion, and are in accordance with other land exchange goals and objectives and RMP planning decisions;
2. The land tenure adjustment results in a net gain of important and manageable resource values on public lands such as crucial wildlife habitat, significant cultural sites, high quality riparian areas, live water, Threatened and Endangered Species habitat, or areas key to the maintenance of productive ecosystems;
3. The land tenure adjustment ensures the accessibility of public lands in areas where access is needed and cannot otherwise be obtained;
4. The land tenure adjustment is essential to allow effective management of public lands in areas where consolidation of ownership is necessary to meet resource management objectives; and
5. The land tenure adjustment results in acquisition of lands which serve a national priority as identified in national policy directives.

Numerous Federal parcels identified for disposal have the potential to meet one or more of the exchange criteria listed above. As land use patterns continue to evolve and change in the area, other lands may be considered

for disposal under these criteria. All disposals would be subject to existing laws, regulations, policies, and valid existing rights; some of which may preclude disposals. Further, all disposals would be subject to site specific environmental analysis when an actual land exchange proposal is initiated.

**Acquisitions:**

***Within the NOMA:***

All private lands within the exterior boundaries of the NOMA would be considered suitable for acquisition by exchange. First priority would be given to lands adjacent to existing public lands and to lands above the 5,200 foot elevation.

Any and all lands acquired within the exterior boundary of the NOMA would be managed in accordance with the planning decisions contained in this amendment.

***Outside the NOMA:***

Management of all land acquisitions since the effective date of the Pony Express RMP and future land acquisitions would be in accordance with existing land use management prescriptions described in the existing Pony Express RMP and any subsequent amendments. Should some resource conditions or value be identified where existing management decisions are found unsuitable, then additional plan amendments may be required to provide for appropriate management of those parcels.

**Retention Lands:** All other lands in the NOMA, other than those mentioned above, would be retained in public ownership and would not be considered further for disposal unless overwhelming need or high value resources not previously identified or considered can be gained.

**Withdrawals:** No withdrawals would be made on any lands within the NOMA.

**Access Acquisition:**

To enhance public access, BLM would pursue opportunities to acquire access to the Bates Canyon area.

In order to allow for efficient management, opportunities to acquire administrative access to Pole Canyon would be pursued.

See Map 3 for Land Tenure Adjustments.

**Rights-of-Way (ROWs):**

ROWs applications would be considered on a case by case basis, however, ROWs would avoid the following areas:

- 1) lands within VRM Class II areas;
- 2) lands above 5,200' elevation;
- 3) lands with slopes greater than 30%;
- 4) lands within ¼ mile of live water sources, except water development projects where underground placement and wildlife mitigation would reduce impacts to acceptable levels.

Preference would be given to underground construction methods that can be fully mitigated by proper reclamation and rehabilitation. ROWs proposed for areas above the 5,200 foot elevation line must be constructed underground and must be completely rehabilitated. A bond is required for all projects above the 5,200 foot elevation line. Existing ROWs above the 5,200 foot elevation line would not be considered for renewal unless they can be reconstructed underground with complete rehabilitation.

◆ **Issue 2 (under Chapter II, Alternative 2) : Watershed and Vegetation Management:**

**Grazing Management:** Grazing would continue to be authorized, pending application of Utah Standards and Guidelines and other range studies to determine stocking rates, for the Big Canyon and the Pole Canyon pastures (see Map 4) at the current rate of 125 head of cattle from June 16 to October 15 (a total of 250 AUMs on 50% Federal range). Livestock would be excluded from the area above the 5,200 foot elevation level on public land prior to August 15 of any one year to protect important watershed vegetation. The Pass Canyon pasture would be rested from grazing while monitoring studies would be undertaken to evaluate the proper carrying capacity and determine the stocking rates of this pasture. Suitability determinations will be made on all pastures for final stocking rate determinations.

An activity plan would be implemented as time and budget warrants. The activity plan would emphasize rotation and rest from grazing to allow for perennial vegetation to increase enhancing watershed and winter habitats for deer and elk.

**Projects:** In general, the following types of projects (fences, gates, water developments etc.) would be constructed as necessary to maintain or enhance resource values or provide for the enhanced management of livestock or wildlife:

**Fencing:** Pass Canyon Pasture fence, (enhance livestock distribution to accomplish better forage utilization); approximately 2.0 miles.

Middle Pasture fence, (enhance livestock distribution to accomplish better forage utilization); approximately 2.0 miles.

North Pasture Fence, (enhance livestock distribution to accomplish better forage utilization); approximately 2.0 miles.

**Gates:** Drift fences with gates would be constructed as necessary for the protection of resources. All fences would be constructed in accordance with BLM manuals to reduce wildlife injury and mortality. Gates would be placed at the mouths of Bates, Pass, Pole, and Flood Canyons to facilitate proposed livestock management practices.

**Water:** In general, water development projects would be constructed to enhance livestock and wildlife management and are consistent with other resource goals/ objectives and decisions in existing planning documents.

Other similar projects may also be constructed as identified in activity or site specific planning.

**Vegetation enhancement/modification:** Various types of land/vegetation modification methods including but not limited to, disking, rangeland drills, chainings and reseeding, herbicides, hand tools etc., would be utilized if such projects would assure progression towards proper functioning condition of the land, including reduction in erosion or sedimentation rates, increases in appropriate or desired vegetative species composition, reduction in noxious weeds, enhancement of livestock management, or improve wildlife habitat or visual resources. The specific type of treatment would depend upon an analysis of any given location.

Specific vegetation enhancement projects that would be conducted by various methods addressed in this proposed amendment (except chaining) include the following areas:

-approximately 800+ acres below the 5,200 foot elevation line (generally located below the Pass Canyon area).

-approximately 300+ acres below the 5,200 foot elevation line (generally located below the Big Canyon area).

All watershed or vegetation projects would require a minimum of 2 years rest from livestock grazing after completion of the project. Monitoring would be conducted to determine if longer resting periods are needed. Commercial or personal use of woodland products would not be allowed within the NOMA unless site specific need is demonstrated, it is consistent to or complimentary with planning goals and objectives, and is analyzed in a subsequent environmental analysis.

**Erosion Control:** Erosion control projects wherever necessary to reduce existing erosion and dust problems or enhance watershed condition would be constructed according to site specific needs. Specific methods to be considered are inclusive of those identified for vegetation projects but also include the following: appropriate road capping, crowning, reclamation/rehabilitation of problem access areas, water bars, rip rap, culverts and water control structures. In addition to these goals and objectives, the following projects and methods would be analyzed for the control of erosion:

- Redesign the main Pass Canyon Road on bench areas (approximately 2.0 miles) using realignment, grading, graveling/crowning, water bars, and appropriate drainage methods.

- Close the following trails known to cause excessive erosion, maintenance and/or safety problems: Pass Canyon jeep trail, Big Canyon jeep trail, Big Spring jeep trail, Murray Canyon jeep trail, as well as other small trails resulting from indiscriminate use. Administrative or permitted uses would continue to be allowed.

**Hybrid oak protection:** The following mitigation would be required for any surface disturbing activity that could adversely affect hybrid oak stands, unless it is shown to the satisfaction of the authorized officer, that such effects could be mitigated.

- Hybrid oak clones would be preserved and shall not be damaged or removed by any permitted use.
- Individual clones that are in danger would be fenced to protect them from damage.
- A Plan of Operations and bonding would be required for any project that would take place closer than 100 feet to an oak clone in this OHV closed area.

**Water rights:** Pursue water rights as necessary or as opportunity arises to provide benefits for livestock, wildlife, or public values. (Currently the Tooele Valley Watershed is closed to new filings).

See Map 4 for Watershed and Vegetation Treatments and Map 4A for the Hybrid Oak Protection Area.

◆ **Issue 3 (under Chapter II, Alternative 2): Wildlife and Associated Habitat**

**Forage allocations:** Provide the following forage allocations for wildlife:

Mule deer: 1,224 AUMs (conversion factor 8.9 deer/ AUM winter and 5.8 deer/AUM in summer)

Elk: 571 AUMs (conversion factor 2.1 elk/AUM)

Allow vegetation modification projects that would enhance wildlife values so long as other resource goals and objectives are met. See projects identified under Watershed and Vegetation Management.

**Crucial habitat and wildlife protection/enhancement needs:** BLM would protect important wildlife habitat values throughout the planning area from disturbing activities by restricting seismic work, mineral and well development, new road construction, ROWs, organized recreational activities, military exercises, and other disturbing activities (excluding maintenance activities) in the following areas during the stated times:

- 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 of each year or year long if the disturbance would negatively impact the suitability of the site for future nesting,

- 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 December 1 through March 1,
- 4) within 1200 feet of riparian habitats,
- 5) within crucial mule deer summer/fawning habitats April 15 to July 31,
- 6) within crucial elk winter range December 1 to April 30 and calving areas May 1 to June 30,
- 7) within waterfowl habitat, i.e. marsh and wetland areas,
- 8) 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 would not seriously disturb the wildlife habitat values being protected.

**Wildlife Introductions/Reintroduction:** Allow future transplants of Rio Grande Turkeys in coordination with the Utah Division of Wildlife Resources.

See Map 5 for mule deer habitat areas.

See Map 6 for elk habitat areas.

◆ ***Issue 4 (under Chapter II, Alternative 2): Recreation Management Including Access and OHV Use***

**Goal/Objective:** The lands within the NOMA would be designated as an Extensive Recreation Management Area (ERMA). The goal of this ERMA would be to provide for dispersed, unregulated, and unconfined recreation experiences with minimal oversight or supervision consistent with the existing primitive/non-motorized and semi primitive/motorized physical setting that now exists in the NOMA.

**Recreational Developments:** Consistent with the existing physical setting of the area, no additional recreational facilities would be constructed in the ERMA.

**Trails and Signs:** No new trails would be constructed within the NOMA. Additional signing would be allowed in order to provide for visitor safety or protect natural resources where such conditions may be found.

**Off Highway Vehicle Use:** In order to manage for visitor use as well as for the control of erosion, and disturbance to wildlife, the NOMA would receive the following OHV designations as depicted on Map 7;

Open to Motorized Vehicles only on Designated Roads and Trails:

All lands below (west) of line shown on Map 7. This line is intended to generally represent the boundary between lands with slope above 20% (18 degrees) from those below, except for canyon bottoms. Approximate acreage: 1,809 acres.

Closed to motorized vehicles all year:

All lands above (east) of the above described line. Approximate acreage 12,445 acres.

**Exceptions to above OHV designations:** Motorized access on designated roads and trails on the Pass Canyon Bench as shown on Map 7 would be limited to the period of time between June 1 and October 31 in order to protect crucial wildlife habitat and prevent erosion damage to soils. If conditions permit, this open period may be extended by the BLM Authorized Officer to include the period through December 5th. This extended use period would depend on an evaluation of the conditions that exist at the time. This evaluation would take into account the amount of moisture in the soil, the likelihood of damage to roads from vehicles and unsafe conditions. Long term goals for OHV use would be to improve access conditions to allow all weather travel on designated roads from June 1 to December 5th each year.

The jeep trail in Bates Canyon would remain open on a trial basis. Should damage to watershed or other

resource values occur as a result of access into Bates Canyon, the Authorized Officer would immediately close this access to all motorized vehicles.

In all cases, administrative, fire protection, search and rescue, or any other authorized use would be allowed.

Note, Map 7 illustrates only those road designations that apply to existing BLM public lands.

**Other:** Snowmobile use is prohibited in all crucial deer and elk winter range except that administrative or permitted uses would still be allowed (i.e., search and rescue etc.).

◆ **Issue 5 (under Chapter II, Alternative 2): Mineral Management**

**Material Sales:** No material sales sites would be considered in the NOMA.

**Locatable Minerals:** The area would remain open to locatable minerals, however, mining activities would require a plan of operations and bonding prior to mining operations in areas closed to OHV use.

**Leasable Minerals:** The lands within the NOMA would be categorized for oil and gas leasing as follows:

Category I:	Open to oil and gas leasing, no special lease restrictions	40 acres
Category II:	Open to oil and gas leasing subject to special lease restrictions (See special stipulations for surface disturbance/wildlife protection)	10,573 acres
Category III:	No Surface Occupancy	0 acres
Category IV:	Closed to Oil and Gas Leasing	0 acres

See Map 8 for mineral leasing categories.

◆ **Issue 6 (under Chapter II, Alternative 2): Cultural Resource Management**

**Goal/Objective:** As time and budget allow, the BLM would continue to conduct cultural resource inventory on a site or area wide basis. Data gathered would be used to classify similar classes of sites or areas into management categories. The following management categories and objectives would be used:

**Manage for information potential:** Cultural resources under this objective are capable of contributing useful scientific, historic or management information. Information potential on these sites or areas would be protected by physical or administrative means until information potential has been realized. Mitigation to avoid adverse impacts would be allowed on sites within this category.

**Manage for Public Values:** Cultural resources included under this objective possess identified socio-cultural, educational, recreational, or other public values. These sites or areas would be managed in a manner that considers these values. Mitigation to avoid adverse impacts is allowed on sites within this category.

**Manage for Conservation Use:** Cultural resources included under this objective have overriding scientific or historic importance. These sites or areas are to be managed in a manner that maintains their present condition and scientific potential. Conflicting uses would not be allowed if it is determined that these sites or areas would be impacted.

Important sites may be protected through fencing, avoidance or increased surveillance. Mitigation of sites in response to surface disturbing activities would be allowed when concurrence is received from the Utah State Historic Preservation Office (SHPO). Stabilization or interpretation of important sites may also be allowed when authorized by SHPO.

At a minimum, all surface disturbing activities would be required to maintain at least a 200 foot buffer

from any National Register site found through the inventory process.

◆ **Issue 7 (under Chapter II, Alternative 2): Visual Resource Management Classification**

The lands within the NOMA would be classified as follows:

VRM Class I	0 acres
VRM Class II	12,445 acres
VRM Class III	1,544 acres
VRM Class IV	265 acres

See Map 9 for VRM designations.

◆ **Issue 8 (under Chapter II, Alternative 2): Fire Management**

The State of Utah and Tooele County would continue to provide for initial attack and fire suppression in accordance with existing agreements. Due to the developing urban interface and the significant communications sites along the mountain tops, aggressive fire suppression tactics would be used to contain 90% of the fires in the NOMA to 300 acres or less. Fire prevention signing would be installed at main entrance points.

## **Alternative 3: Enhanced Use and Development**

### **◆ Issue 1 (under Chapter II, Alternative 3): Land Tenure Adjustments**

The following land exchange criteria would be used to provide additional opportunities for land exchanges;

#### **Disposal Criteria to Apply to Entire Planning Unit**

The following land tenure adjustment criteria would be used to create additional exchange opportunities throughout the Pony Express Resource Area:

1. Land tenure adjustments would be considered where such adjustments are in the public interest and accommodate the needs of local and State people, including needs for the economy, and community growth and expansion, and are in accordance with other land exchange goals and objectives and RMP planning decisions;
2. The land tenure adjustment ensures the accessibility of public lands in areas where access is needed and cannot otherwise be obtained;

Management of future land acquisitions would be in accordance with existing land use management prescriptions described in the existing Pony Express RMP and any subsequent amendments. Should some resource conditions or value be identified where existing management decisions are found unsuitable, then additional plan amendments may be required to provide for appropriate management of those parcels.

#### **Disposal Specific to North Oquirrh Planning Area**

**Disposal Parcels, Exchanges:** All lands within the NOMA would be considered for disposal under FLPMA Section 206 (Exchanges) where determined consistent with goals and objectives of other resource programs.

**Disposal Parcels:** The following parcels would be considered for disposal by any method:

- |    |   |            |
|----|---|------------|
| 1) | T. 3 S., R. 4 W., Section 12: S½SW¼SW¼NW¼ | 5.00 Acres |
| 2) | T. 2 S., R. 4 W., Section 13: Lots 2-5    | 2.75 Acres |

Priority for those parcels considered for disposal would be those that benefit community growth and development.

Acquisitions pursued (under any method) would consider the following guidelines:

Priority for acquisitions should first consider the potential for community growth and development, then consider exchange where the exchange results in a net gain of important and manageable resource values on public lands such as crucial wildlife habitat, significant cultural resource sites, high quality riparian areas, live water, Threatened or Endangered species habitat, public access, or areas key to the maintenance of productive ecosystems.

All disposals would be subject to existing laws, regulations, policies, and valid existing rights; some of which may preclude disposal. Further, all disposals would be subject to site specific environmental analysis when an actual land exchange proposal is initiated.

**Retention Lands:** No specific lands in the NOMA would be identified for retention.

**Access Acquisition:** None

**Rights-of-Way (ROWs):** All rights-of-way applications would be considered on a case by case basis within the

NOMA.

◆ **Issue 2 (under Chapter II, Alternative 3): Watershed and Vegetation Management**

**Livestock Management:** Change of livestock class would be considered if determined to be consistent with other existing goals and objectives of the area. Consider authorization of temporary non-renewable AUMs for the North Oquirrh Allotment dependant upon the successful completion of proposed rehabilitation projects. Consider expansion of AUMS authorized based on success of land treatment projects.

**Projects:** All projects proposed for the enhancement of livestock operations, wildlife habitat or use by wildlife, vegetation modification or watershed stabilization or enhancement would be considered. The following specific water related projects would be considered in this alternative:

- construct Boyd Spring/Green Ravine pipeline; 1.0 mile
- construct Pole Canyon Pipeline; 2.0 miles
- construct Pass Canyon Pipeline; 2.0 miles

**Erosion Control:** Consider erosion control methods or projects wherever necessary to reduce existing erosion problems or enhance watershed condition. Specific methods to be considered are inclusive of those identified for vegetation projects but also include the following; appropriate road capping, crowning, reclamation/rehabilitation of problem access areas, water bars, rip rap, culverting and water control structures.

◆ **Issue 3 (under Chapter II, Alternative 3): Wildlife and Associated Habitat**

**Forage allocations:** Provide the following forage allocations for wildlife:

Mule deer:	224 AUMs (conversion factor 8.9 deer/AUM winter and 5.8 deer/AUM in summer)
Elk:	250 elk/AUMs (conversion factor, 2.1 elk/AUM)

Allow vegetation modification projects that would enhance wildlife values so long as other resource goals and objectives are met. See projects identified under Watershed and Vegetation Management.

**Crucial habitat and wildlife protection/enhancement needs:** BLM would protect important wildlife habitat values from disturbing activities by restricting seismic work, well development, new road construction, ROWs, organized recreational activities, military exercises, and other disturbing activities, excluding maintenance activities, in the following areas during the stated times:

- 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 of each year or year long if the disturbance would negatively impact the suitability of the site for future nesting,
- 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 crucial mule deer summer/fawning habitats April 15 to July 31,
- 6) within crucial elk winter range December 1 to April 30 and calving areas May 1 to June 30.
- 7) within waterfowl habitat, i.e., marsh and wetland areas,
- 8) 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 would not seriously disturb the wildlife habitat values being protected.

**Wildlife Introductions/reintroduction:** Consider future transplants of Rio Grande Turkeys in coordination with

the Utah Division of Wildlife Resources.

◆ **Issue 4 (under Chapter II, Alternative 3): Recreation Management Including Access and OHV Use**

**Goal/Objective:** The lands within the NOMA would be designated as a Special Recreation Management Area (SRMA) with increased emphasis on providing maximum opportunities for recreation developments and use. Management oversight and supervision would increase in the form of campground development, supervision and various forms of access development. The area would be managed in part to provide extensive recreational opportunities for the Wasatch Front populations.

The following developments would be considered through subsequent activity plans:

- Pass Canyon Spring Campground and Spring Development, water acquisition and trail head developments
- Bates Canyon Head campground
- Crest Trail development
- Flood Canyon to Bates Canyon Trail
- Flood Canyon to Pass Canyon Trail
- Parking development at Churchwood Road

Fees would be instituted on all campgrounds to cover costs of development, maintenance and supervision.

**Off Highway Vehicle Use:** The NOMA would receive the following OHV designation:

Limited to Designated Roads and Trails with no season restrictions:  
All lands within the NOMA: 12,445 acres

◆ **Issue 5 (under Chapter II, Alternative 3): Mineral Management**

All acquired land under the Federal Land Facilitation Act are open under the general mining law.

**Material Sales:** Material sales would be considered on case by case basis within the 40 acre parcel classified VRM Class IV within the NOMA.

**Locatable Minerals:** The area would remain open to locatable minerals, (10,613 acres).

**Leasable Minerals:** The land within the NOMA would be categorized as follows:

Category I:	Open to oil and gas leasing, no special lease restrictions	40 acres
Category II:	Open to oil and gas leasing subject to special lease restrictions as follows: See alternative 2 wildlife section for these stipulations on page 11	10,573 acres
Category III:	No Surface Occupancy	0 acres
Category IV:	Closed	0 acres

◆ **Issue 6 (under Chapter II, Alternative 3): Cultural Resource Management**

**Goal/Objective:** In response to project requirements, continue to conduct cultural resource inventory on a site or area wide basis. Data gathered would be used to classify similar classes of sites or areas into management categories. The following management objectives would be used:

**Manage for information potential:** Cultural resources under this objective are capable of contributing useful scientific, historic or management information. Information potential on these sites or areas is to

be protected by physical or administrative means until information potential has been realized. Mitigation to avoid adverse impacts is allowed on sites within this category.

**Manage for Public Values:** Cultural resources included under this objective possess identified socio-cultural, educational, recreational or other public values. These sites or areas would be managed in a manner that considers these values. Mitigation to avoid adverse impacts is allowed on sites within this category.

No sites or areas would be managed specifically for conservation use.

◆ ***Issue 7 (under Chapter II, Alternative 3): Visual Resource Management Classification***

Same designations as depicted in Alternative 2, the Proposed Action.

◆ ***Issue 8 (under Chapter II, Alternative 3): Fire Management***

Same fire prescriptions as Alternative 2, the proposed Action.

### **CHAPTER III: THE AFFECTED ENVIRONMENT**

The affected environment for these proposed planning actions are essentially those public lands located within the NOMA as shown on Map 2. Refer to Environmental Analysis UT-020-95-08 (Kennecott Land Exchange) and the Pony Express Draft and Final Environmental Impact Statements and Record of Decision, Resource Management Plan for a description of the Affected Environment and existing management framework for the area in general.

**CHAPTER IV: ENVIRONMENTAL CONSEQUENCES OF THE PROPOSED ACTION AND ALTERNATIVES CONSIDERED**

The following mandatory items have been considered for this environmental assessment. Items that may be impacted have been discussed within the environmental assessment. Rationale for those elements that would not be adversely affected are listed below.

<u>Indirect/cumulative Impact</u>	<u>No Adverse Affect</u>	<u>Value</u>	<u>Rationale</u>
1. <input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Air Quality	No activities proposed exceeding ambient air quality standards
2. <input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	T&E Species	No adverse impact expected
3. <input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Flood plains	Resource not present
4. <input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Prime/Unique Farmland	Resource not present
5. <input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Water Resources	No activities proposed exceeding water quality standards
6. <input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Cultural/Historical	Adverse impacts not expected to occur from planning decisions
7. <input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Paleontological Res.	Resource not present
8. <input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Areas of Critical Environmental Concern	Designated lands not present
9. <input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Wilderness	Resource not present
10. <input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Wild and Scenic Rivers	Designated rivers not present
11. <input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Native American Rights	Native American Rights not affected
12. <input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Waste, Hazardous/Solid	Not present or not generated by proposal
13. <input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Environmental Justice	No adverse impact expected

**IMPACTS COMMON TO ALL ALTERNATIVES:**

Proposed decisions for Cultural Resource Management and Visual Resource Management are essentially the same for Alternatives 2 and 3. Portions of the proposed decisions for the Wildlife program are the same for Alternatives 2 and 3. Proposed Fire Management decisions are the same for all alternatives.

**ENVIRONMENTAL CONSEQUENCES OF ALTERNATIVE 1/NO ACTION**

**Alternative 1: No Action/No Additional Planning Authorized**

Under this alternative, no new planning decisions would be provided for the acquired lands in this NOMA. Further use authorizations would not be allowed, unless authorized by existing policy or regulation.

◆ ***Issue 1 (under Chapter IV, Alternative 1): Land Tenure Adjustments***

Implementation of this alternative would not result in any direct impacts to the land surface. No changes to the existing land tenure/exchange criteria previously analyzed in the Pony Express Draft EIS would occur. Under these existing criteria, approximately 8,924.3 acres (as specifically identified in the Pony Express RMP) would continue to be available for disposal subject to existing authorities, limitations and priorities provided in the existing plan. An approximate 1,581,962 acres in the Pony Express Resource Area could also be considered for land tenure adjustment by exchange under limited criteria on a case by case basis. In general, both the specific and limited disposal criteria do not provide disposal flexibility under certain circumstances related to community growth and development.

Indirectly, impacts could include lost opportunities to better provide for community growth and development in Tooele County.

**Management of future land acquisitions:** The current RMP does not consider the management of future lands acquisitions. Under the No Action Alternative, no new decisions would be added to direct the management of the NOMA or other future land acquisitions. Future acquisitions would essentially remain closed to the majority of land uses unless additional plan amendments were incorporated to provide for their management. Opportunities to provide for multiple use, resource maintenance or enhancement, public or economic benefits could be lost.

**Identification of additional disposal tracts:** No new tracts of land would be available for disposal under Federal Land Policy Management Act sale criteria.

**Retention Areas:** All acquired lands in the NOMA ( 8,292 acres) would be retained in federal ownership, in addition to approximately 441,820 acres of high value lands already identified for retention in the Pony Express RMP, an increase of 1.8%. While no direct impacts would be anticipated because of this policy, indirectly it would continue to allow the BLM to ensure the conservation, maintenance or enhancement of some of the most valued resources within the Pony Express Resource Area.

**ROW, Exclusion/Avoidance Areas:** Implementation of this alternative would not create any direct impacts to existing ROWs. New ROWs would be considered on a case by case basis on existing public lands (not acquired lands within the NOMA) using the existing criteria in the Pony Express RMP. Indirectly, opportunities to provide for needed community infrastructure and services could be lost. The four existing encumbrances within the NOMA would continue to be recognized as valid existing rights and managed in accordance with the ROW agreements.

**Withdrawals:** No new areas would be identified for withdrawal beyond those acres that were identified in the RMP which include the Bonneville Salt Flats, certain public water reserves and Simpson Springs.

◆ ***Issue 2 (under Chapter IV, Alternative 1): Watershed and Vegetation Management***

**Grazing Management:** Prior to the acquisition of lands within the NOMA, the North Oquirrh Grazing Allotment consisted of approximately 5,963 acres at 50% federal range. Technically, this alternative would result in the permittee having to maintain his operation in a manner consistent with his existing permit regardless of the increase in the amount of federal land within the allotment. Grazing would not be authorized on any of the acquired lands. However, at this point in time it is unrealistic and unfeasible to immediately stop grazing on the acquired lands within the allotment. Winter weather, extensive fencing, and a new grazing system/Allotment Management Plan in addition to needed range inventories would have to be developed in order for this to occur, thus no direct impact to the existing livestock operation would be expected.

Implementation of this alternative would result in continued authorization of 500 Animal Unit Months (AUMs)/250 head of cattle from May 16 through June 15 and from September 15 through October 15. Change of livestock class would not be considered. No new grazing would be authorized in any other area of the NOMA.

**Forage Allocations:** No new forage allocations would be authorized within the NOMA for livestock or wildlife. Existing forage allocation would be maintained at approximately the following levels throughout the Pony Express Resource Area:

Cattle	39,173 AUMs	Horse-wild	1,560 AUMs
Sheep	67,001 AUMs	Horse-domestic	125 AUMs
Mule deer	29,853 AUMs	Bighorn Sheep	298 AUMs
Pronghorn Antelope	1,518 AUMs		
Total:	139,998 AUMs		

**Projects:** Implementation of the No Action Alternative would result in no new projects being authorized within the NOMA and therefore direct impacts would not be anticipated. Indirect impacts however would be expected to occur based on the loss of opportunities to provide for resource maintenance or enhancement. The likelihood of continued watershed degradation resulting from erosion would be anticipated to continue in the future without the potential for on the ground watershed enhancement projects. Similarly, opportunities to enhance vegetation for wildlife and livestock purposes as well as the ability to provide for better distribution of livestock and utilization of forage would also be lost which would adversely affect both wildlife habitat and livestock operations.

Downward trend in vegetation composition in certain areas would continue to adversely impact wildlife in important winter habitat areas. Weeds and annuals would continue to invade disturbed areas.

**T&E/hybrid oak protection:** Under this alternative no specific measures would be authorized for the protection of these uncommon plants. While no specific protective measures would be authorized, these plants would essentially be protected by default since most activities would not be allowed on the acquired lands due to the lack of planning for these lands.

**Erosion Control:** No additional erosion control projects would be authorized resulting in the continued degradation of soils in several identified areas. In particular, steep access roads located in many of the side canyons would continue to erode until impassable or increased cost of maintenance would become prohibitive. Visitor safety on severely degraded roads could not continue to be assured.

**Water rights:** No additional water rights would be pursued, however, currently no additional rights are believed to be available in the NOMA.

### ◆ **Issue 3 (under Chapter IV, Alternative 1): Wildlife and Associated Habitat**

**Crucial habitat protection/enhancement needs:** Implementation of this alternative would result in no habitat protection or improvement projects being allowed on acquired lands. While no direct impacts are anticipated, indirect impacts would be expected to occur as follows: Some lower elevation areas (winter range areas) would remain in degraded condition with no additional opportunities for habitat enhancement and could contribute adversely to winter survival rates for deer and elk due to poor forage or cover components. As a result, populations of deer or elk may remain low or static, with the full population potential not being realized. Degradation on private lands would continue at existing levels. Additionally, this alternative would allow no special stipulations to protect these species from surface disturbing activities.

**Raptor protection needs:** Under this alternative, no specific actions or special stipulations would be taken to specifically protect raptors and no direct impacts would thus be anticipated on acquired lands. However, since the passage of the Federal Land Exchange Facilitation Act, acquired lands are automatically open to some forms of use such as locatable mineral exploration and development as well as oil and gas exploration and development. While the occurrence of developable deposits is considered low, there is still a potential that such operations could adversely impact raptor nesting sites. This alternative would not allow for special stipulations that could invoke seasonal activity restrictions near or around such sites and thus could adversely affect breeding success.

**Habitat Management Plans (HMPs)/further activity planning needs:** This alternative would result in no additional activity planning. While this decision would not create any direct impacts to wildlife or habitat, indirectly numerous future opportunities could be lost that could positively contribute to wildlife management in the form of habitat improvement projects etc.

**Introductions/Re-introduction:** This alternative would allow no wildlife introduction/reintroduction into the NOMA. The opportunity to boost local biodiversity as well as provide additional hunting or wildlife viewing opportunities would be lost.

◆ ***Issue 4 (under Chapter IV, Alternative 1): Recreation Management Including Access and OHV Use***

**Recreational Developments:** Under this alternative, no additional recreational developments would be authorized within the NOMA. Opportunities to provide future expansion of recreational facilities to meet considerable growing demand would be forgone. This alternative would tend to favor more primitive recreational uses such as hiking and back country camping where developments are not necessary for that kind of experience. Conversely, this alternative would not favor users seeking more development oriented recreational opportunities such as campgrounds with toilets, grills, picnic areas, etc.

**OHV Plan:** The area would remain closed to all forms of transportation in conformance with the existing emergency seasonal closure now in affect. This closure has been administratively modified to allow access into the NOMA on existing roads and trails from September 15 until December 5th.

**Trails, Signs:** No additional trails or signing would not be considered.

◆ ***Issue 5 (under Chapter IV, Alternative 1): Mineral Management***

In general, most forms of mineral exploration or development would be allowed based on the opening orders under FLEFA that occurred when the lands were acquired.

**Material Sales:** Under this alternative material sales would not be allowed within the NOMA. This decision would create little impact to existing users of this resource based on other available public and private sources of these materials.

**Locatable Minerals:** Under this alternative the NOMA is open to locatable mineral development with no specific surface protection stipulations to protect sensitive resources including visual resources. While locatable mineral occurrences are low in the area, there is still an opportunity for exploration or development to impact certain sensitive resources. In particular, deer and elk winter range and deer and elk and fawning/calving areas would not be protected from these activities.

**Leasable Minerals:** Under this alternative, the development of leaseable minerals within the NOMA would be subject to standard lease stipulations and open to leaseable mineral development with no specific lease stipulations to protect sensitive resources. While leaseable mineral occurrences are low in the area, there is still an opportunity for exploration or development to impact certain sensitive resources. In particular, deer and elk winter range and deer and elk and fawning/calving areas would not be protected from these activities and thus these species and their habitat could be adversely affected by leaseable mineral activities. Non-acquired public lands would remain in Category II in accordance with the existing planning document.

Important wildlife habitat or seasonal use areas such as sage grouse strutting grounds, riparian areas, raptor nest sites may not be fully protected under the standard lease stipulations.

◆ ***Issue 6 (under Chapter IV, Alternative 1): Cultural Resource Management***

Under this alternative, further inventory and classification of the cultural resources would not take place, except most probably in response to cultural clearance and mitigation performed in response to locatable or leasable mineral activities. Opportunities to conduct cultural or historical inventories or research would therefore be limited, contributing to the continued lack of understanding of spacial and temporal historic uses of lands within the NOMA.

◆ ***Issue 7 (under Chapter IV, Alternative 1): Visual Resource Management Classification***

Under this alternative, no additional inventory or visual resource management designations would take place. Those visual resources that have higher scenic or sensitivity values could be subject to degradation from locatable or leasable mineral activities. While the future extent of such activities is considered to be low, changes to the form, color, line and texture of existing landscape could occur that would not be subordinate to existing landscape features. Without appropriate visual management categories, goals and objectives as well as mitigation requirements that could be imposed for the protection of visual resources would be forgone. Non acquired lands would remain in VRM Class IV.

***Issue 8 (under Chapter IV, Alternative 1): Fire Management***

Due to the developing urban interface and the significant communication sites along the mountain tops, aggressive fire suppression tactics would be used to contain 90% of the fires in the NOMA to 300 acres or less. Fire prevention signing would be installed at main entrance points.

Implementation of these fire prescriptions would in part help assure the prevention of catastrophic fire on timbered slopes and subsequently the prevention of potentially severe watershed degradation and wildlife habitat loss. It could provide the necessary protection for expensive communication sites on mountain tops. It would also help assure that the potential for the loss of private property at the urban wildland interface is reduced.

### **CUMULATIVE IMPACTS OF ALTERNATIVE 1:**

The cumulative impacts of this alternative are considered insignificant and have been previously analyzed in the Draft Pony Express RMP and Environmental Impact Statement

There would be an increase of 14,254 acres (less than 1%) added to the retention category for lands within the Resource Area as a whole resulting in approximately 22% or 425,394 acres being permanently classified for retention while approximately 78% of the planning area would be available for disposal.

All 8,292 acres of acquired lands in the NOMA would remain closed to motorized vehicles until April 22, 2001, representing an overall increase (temporary) of less than 0.4% of the total resource area being closed to OHV use.

There would be no cumulative change in any of the existing forage allocations previously identified and analyzed in the Pony Express Draft RMP/EIS.

Adverse cumulative impacts could occur on approximately 14,254 acres or less than 1% of the resource area due to the lack of opportunities to provide for watershed or vegetation treatments. Watershed condition and poor vegetative conditions would be expected to continue to degrade in these areas which would also affect wildlife and associated habitat.

An approximate 1% increase in the total available lands for mineral and energy exploration and production would occur under this alternative and 0% increase in additional lands available for material sales.

There would be no additional cumulative impacts beyond those identified in the Draft Pony Express RMP/EIS and existing categories would be maintained as follows:

VRM Class I:	0 acres
VRM Class II:	70,520 acres (3.4%)
VRM Class III:	133,600 acres (6.5%)
VRM Class IV:	1,827,126 acres (89.8%)
VRM Class V:	1,460 acres (<1%) includes areas to be rehabilitated.

### **IRREVERSIBLE AND IRRETRIEVABLE COMMITMENT OF RESOURCES:**

There are no known irreversible or irretrievable commitment of resources under the no action alternative other than the existing 8,924 acres that were previously identified for potential disposal in the Pony Express RMP. These lands are still available and their potential for leaving public ownership would constitute an irreversible and irretrievable commitment of resources.

### **RESIDUAL IMPACTS:**

There are no known residual impacts associated with this alternative other than the potential for continued watershed degradation and interrelated wildlife impacts should enhancement projects be precluded by this alternative.

## ENVIRONMENTAL CONSEQUENCES OF ALTERNATIVE 2/ PROPOSED ACTION/BALANCED MULTIPLE USE

### ◆ *Issue 1 (under Chapter IV, Alternative 2): Lands and Realty Management*

Implementation of this alternative would not result in any direct impacts to the land surface, however, some changes to the existing land tenure adjustment/exchange criteria previously analyzed in the Pony Express Draft EIS would occur. The five new land tenure adjustment criteria would be expected to add considerable flexibility to the planning framework allowing greater potential for disposals to create opportunities for community growth and development, increased management efficiencies as well as the ability to provide for the protection and acquisition of sensitive resources and the potential for ensuring continued access to public lands.

An additional 791 acres beyond those identified in the Pony Express RMP would be available for disposal under FLPMA section 206 exchanges. All disposals subsequent to this proposed amendment would require site specific environmental analysis and would be subject to existing policies, laws and regulations and valid existing rights, some of which may preclude disposal.

**Management of future land acquisitions:** The current RMP does not consider the management of future lands acquisitions. Under the Proposed Action Alternative, management of all land acquisitions since the effective date of the Pony Express RMP and future land acquisitions would be in accordance with existing land use management prescriptions (that have been previously analyzed) on those lands surrounding or adjacent to the lands acquired unless special resource conditions are found to exist that would necessitate a plan amendment. Opportunities to provide for multiple use, resource maintenance or enhancement, public or economic benefits could be gained as acquired lands would generally have most planning decisions in place once they are in public ownership. This proposed decision could also result in increase efficiencies for the Bureau of Land Management in that additional planning efforts for each new acquisition would not be required.

For those lands within the NOMA, all lands not in public ownership would be considered for acquisition by exchange. Priorities would be given to lands adjacent to other public lands and to lands above 5,200 feet. All lands within the NOMA would be managed in accordance with decisions in this proposed amendment. This could allow further management efficiencies for the BLM as well as opportunities for land owners to gain properties that could be considered more desirable for development purposes.

**Identification of additional disposal tracts:** Two new tracts totaling 7.75 acres would be available for disposal under Federal Land Policy and Management Act, Section 203, public sales.

**Retention Areas:** The majority of acquired land in the NOMA (13,575.25 acres) would be retained in federal ownership, in addition to approximately 411,140 of high value land acres already identified for retention, (unless it is determined by the authorized officer that overwhelming need or higher resource values can be obtained). This is an overall increase of less than 1% of the lands in the resource area. While no direct impacts would be anticipated because of this retention policy, indirectly it would continue to allow the BLM to ensure the conservation, maintenance or enhancement of some of the most valued resources within the Pony Express Resource Area including the following areas; Deep Creek Area, Knoll Area, Cedar Mountains Area, Dugway/Riverbed Area, Simpson Springs, Simpson Mt./Onaqui Mt/Big Hollow, White Rocks, Salt Mt., Horseshoe Springs, North Stansbury Mts., Rush Lake Area, Clover Reservoir Area, Ophir Canyon Area, the Bonneville Salt Flats Area as well as the NOMA.

**ROW, Exclusion/Avoidance Areas:** Implementation of this alternative would not create any direct impacts to existing ROWs. Areas within the NOMA would be identified as suitable for ROWs subject to the following limitations:

ROWs Avoidance Areas

- 1) lands within VRM Class II Areas,
- 2) lands above 5,200 feet elevation, (in general this elevational level is representative of a line of demarcation separating valley and foothills from the steeper slopes),
- 3) lands with slopes greater than 30%,
- 4) lands within a ¼ mile of live water sources except underground developments or where wildlife mitigation would reduce impacts to acceptable levels.

Preference would be given to underground construction methods that could be fully mitigated by proper reclamation. It is anticipated that this could result in less overall surface disturbance in the long term and provide additional protection for the most important visual resources within the NOMA. ROW construction limitations on steep slopes (30% or greater) could help ensure the reduction of excessive erosion associated with construction. Less surface disturbance within important deer and elk wintering areas would also be anticipated, thus preserving forage and cover values important to the survival of these species. Protection of wildlife watering sources would also ensure continued accessibility and availability of water sources. The possibility of allowing ROWs using underground construction methods would also be considered if underground construction or wildlife mitigation could reduce impacts to acceptable levels providing both benefits to potential applicants (by allowing the ROW) and to wildlife (through the continued protection of watering sources).

In addition, bonds would be required suitable to cover the anticipated cost of reclamation of activities in all areas above 5,200 feet for lands within the NOMA assuring reclamation and rehabilitation of disturbance would occur. This would assure that the BLM would not incur the cost or liability of required reclamation activities.

The six existing encumbrances within the NOMA would continue to be recognized as valid existing rights and managed in accordance with the current ROW agreements. These encumbrances include the Lincoln Water Users pipeline, aerial tram ROW, and four Utah Power and Light power lines.

**Withdrawals:** No new areas would be identified for withdrawal.

**Access acquisition:** Would be pursued from willing parties in order to ensure access to public lands in areas now considered inaccessible to the public. In particular, recreational benefits to the public as well as increased management efficiencies for BLM could be obtained by providing access to public lands above the lower portions of Bates and Pole Canyons.

#### ◆ ***Issue 2 (under Chapter IV, Alternative 2): Watershed and Vegetation Management***

**Grazing Management:** Grazing would continue in the Big and Pole Canyon pastures of the North Oquirrh Allotments at the rate of 125 head of cattle from June 16 thru October 15. The Pass Canyon pasture (6,265 acres), would be rested from grazing. During this time, the conditions would be monitored and data gathered to determine what the carrying capacity of all three allotments should be and adjustments to the existing permit would be made at that time. Existing data for this area shows that it is in poor condition and has been over utilized for a number of years. It is anticipated that complete rest should help improve both vegetative and soil holding conditions within this area. In addition, range improvement projects are also contemplated for this area (see Projects section analysis below). Benefits of interim management would also extend to wildlife in the area due to reduction in forage competition as well as an anticipated increase in forage and cover availability for deer, elk, as well as other upland game and other non-game species.

**Projects:** Range improvement projects (including water developments) would be considered as necessary if they result in benefits to range conditions or management of natural resources. Specifically, the following projects are proposed in this amendment:

Pass Canyon Fence (2.0 miles), Middle Pasture Fence (1.0 miles) and North Canyon Fence (2.0 miles) would result in approximately 5.0 miles of fence line being constructed for the purpose of enhancing livestock distribution to accomplish better forage utilization. All fences would be constructed using minimum impact methods, resulting in no new roads. Less than 0.1 acres would be anticipated to be disturbed per mile using

hand construction methods and placement of poles or stays resulting in less than a 0.6 of an acre of disturbance. Construction of these fences would be done in a manner so as not to create adverse impacts to Threatened or Endangered species and also protect wildlife from injury while still allowing for movement.

Placement of gates at the mouths of Bates, Pass, Pole and Flood Canyons would create minimal surface disturbance while facilitating livestock control.

This alternative would allow consideration of land or vegetation treatments if such projects could reasonably assure progression towards improved vegetative condition including reduction in erosion rates, sedimentation, enhancement of soil moisture holding capacity, enhancement of desired vegetative condition or composition or reduction in noxious weeds. Specific projects included for analysis in this amendment are as follows:

Lower Pass Canyon Disk and Seed Project and Lower Big Canyon Disk and Seed Project: These projects would encompass the surface disking and subsequent drill seeding of the lower Pass Canyon area comprising approximately 800+ acres and the lower Big Canyon area comprising 300+ acres. Disking would be accomplished using wheeled tractors and 10-25 foot wide disks depending upon configuration needed. Seeding would be planned to take advantage of optimal seasonal moisture conditions using standard rangeland drills. All of the acreage treated would be required to be rested from livestock grazing for a minimum of two years to ensure establishment of the newer plant communities. Prior to disking and seeding, the area would be inventoried for sensitive resources including cultural, historical, sensitive species habitat etc. All such areas would be marked for avoidance to ensure they are not impacted from disking or seeding operations. If avoidance is not feasible on cultural resources, impacts would have to be mitigated in coordination with the Utah SHPO using appropriate methods such as recordation or excavation etc.

Initial and direct impacts of this project would include surface disturbance from tractor pulled disks which are designed to cut into the soil surface and break compaction as well as increase permeability and therefore water infiltration. In effect, disking would allow for better preparation of the soil surface in order to create a better seed bed and therefore increase the chance of seeding success. Some initial increase in erosion would be anticipated due to the condition of the disturbed soil surface but would be reduced over time as seedings become established with more desirable vegetation. This increase in vegetation would result in more water retention and better soil holding capabilities over time.

Wildlife (and possibly livestock) benefits would also occur in the long term as more desirable vegetative species composition would offer additional forage and cover values, particularly for those areas considered critical for winter ranges or fawning/calving habitats.

These projects would be considered to temporarily impact certain elements relative to visual resources on the project sites. Initial disking would cause minor changes in the texture of the soil surface as well as color of soil surface and newly emerging vegetation. These projects would not affect either landscape form or line as extensive earth movement would not occur. The duration of these effects are considered to be short term and would be considered subordinate to the visual landscape within the NOMA in general.

Ten hybrid oak clones within the hybrid oak area as delineated on Map 4A would be protected from surface disturbing activities, including potential impacts from oil and gas exploration/development, OHV use, grazing, or other permitted uses generally by ensuring that permitted activities avoid these stands. Methods of protection could include (but not be limited to) the following:

- use of Category II Oil and Gas lease stipulations requiring a protective buffer near oak stands,
- limit OHV use to Designated roads and trails only,
- reduction of livestock grazing if monitoring shows that grazing is preventing rejuvenation of stands or otherwise causing overt damage to stands,
- ensuring that other permitted uses contain terms and conditions that would ensure these stands are avoided.

Other site specific erosion control methods would be considered when necessary to reduce existing erosion

problems. Specific measures to reduce site specific erosion problems would include the proper re-design/re-alignment of roads, road capping, crowning/graveling, water bars and appropriate drainage methods. The following specific projects would be considered in this amendment:

Re-design of roads on the Pass Canyon bench (approximately 2.0 miles) using re-alignment, grading, graveling/crowning, water bars and culverts. Environmental impacts of this project would result in a stable, all weather road which would provide access for the public and lessen site specific erosion. Short term impacts would include a minimal amount of erosion resulting from those areas where re-alignment would occur as new areas are graded to form the new road bed. Minimal surface disturbance would occur on the existing road bed. Approximately 2.0 miles of new gravel would be laid in a manner consistent with approved design standards. A gravel cap over the prepared road base would serve to allow some water infiltration and therefore reduce erosion from the road surface. Appropriate road design in relation to land form would also serve to reduce erosion as well as visual impacts. Water bars would be placed on steeper portions of the access in order to reduce the rate of water flow and subsequent erosion. Properly sized culverts or drainage ditches would be placed where necessary to allow water passage over drainages or where possible to eliminate or divert water flow near the road bed.

Impacts to visual resource elements in proposed Class III VRM area would include changes in texture and color as new surfaces are disturbed by grading (less than 2.0 acres). Some change in the homogeneity of the landscape line would be altered as new linear and curved shapes are introduced where they previously did not exist. It is anticipated that this road upgrade and re-alignment would still remain subordinate to the overall landscape character. No impacts to landscape form would be anticipated as extensive earth moving would not occur. The overall visual character of the area is expected to be enhanced based on the reclamation of poorly designed and located access and damaging OHV trails.

The long term impacts of road re-alignment would result in an overall reduction of erosion along the road bed, and a stable all weather access for the public as well as considerable benefits to the BLM due to the reduction in costs associated with annual maintenance on this road.

That portion of the road bed left over from re-alignment would be rehabilitated as close as is practical to its original condition.

◆ ***Issue 3 (under Chapter IV, Alternative 2): Wildlife and Associated Habitat***

Forage allocations for big game would be allocated in the following manner;

Mule deer: 1,242 AUMs: (this AUM figure is intended to reflect a conversion factor of 8.9 deer/AUM for the winter season and a conversion factor 5.8 deer/AUM for the spring, summer and fall seasons).

Elk: 571 AUMs\* (this AUM figure is intended to reflect a conversion factor of 2.1 elk/AUM based on the following number of AUMs seasonally; 150/winter, 100/spring and fall, and 50/summer).

\* These numbers were produced in coordination and consultation with the Utah Division of Wildlife Resources in an attempt to ensure that known populations of big game are allocated a sufficient amount of forage based on seasonal needs to ensure the continued health, productivity and survival of these populations.

Crucial habitat and wildlife protection/enhancement needs: BLM would protect important wildlife habitat values from disturbing activities by restricting seismic work, well development, new road construction, ROWs, organized recreational activities, military exercises, and other disturbing activities excluding maintenance activities in the following areas during the stated times:

- 1) within mule deer winter range December 1 to April 15, (8,374 acres)
- 2) within 0.5 mile of active raptor nest sites March 1 to July 15 of each year or year long if the disturbance would negatively impact the suitability of the site for future nesting,

- 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 1,200 feet of riparian habitats,
- 5) within crucial mule deer summer/fawning habitats April 15 to July 31, (663 acres),
- 6) within crucial elk winter range December 1 to April 30 (10,178 acres) and calving areas May 1 to June 30 (3,811 acres),
- 7) within waterfowl habitat, i.e., marsh and wetland areas,
- 8) 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 would not seriously disturb the wildlife and habitat values being protected.

The above proposed limitation on disturbing activities would benefit several wildlife species of concern by ensuring protection of their habitat during the most sensitive or critical seasonal or life cycle needs. In particular, deer and elk would benefit by assuring protection of crucial winter ranges from disturbing activities that could impact the necessary cover or forage values in these areas, as well as prevent disturbance when animals are weak and have lower fat reserves.

Active raptor sites would be protected, enhancing the potential for these species to successfully fledge their young and thus ensure survival of these species in the area. Other sensitive or uncommon bird species, including sage grouse, waterfowl, and bald eagles would also be provided positive benefits due to the potential for mitigation to be imposed in order to protect roosting or nesting sites. These actions would also be considered as enhancing the potential for successful fledging of young.

Limitation of disturbing activities within 1,200 feet of riparian areas would also provide benefits to wildlife by ensuring that those species dependant upon riparian areas would not be disturbed by activities and that the riparian areas themselves can continue to provide food, cover, and important breeding sites for the numerous species that use them.

Wildlife Introductions/Re-introductions would also be considered for the Rio Grand Turkey in coordination with the Utah Division of Wildlife Resources. It is not anticipated that any significant impact could occur within the NOMA based on the addition of turkey to the area. There are no known opportunities for the turkey to out compete any endemic species in the area and therefore affect the balance of ecosystem process or function. Introduction could create positive impacts by eventually allowing for more wildlife viewing or hunting opportunities.

In addition, site specific projects previously identified for watershed enhancements that would also benefit wildlife have been previously described.

◆ ***Issue 4 (under Chapter IV, Alternative 2): Recreation Management Including Access and OHV Use***

Designation of the NOMA as an Extensive Recreation Management Area (ERMA) would provide for goals and objectives to continue to manage this area for dispersed, unregulated and unconfined recreational experiences with minimal management oversight or supervision. In general this would be considered a continuation of the status quo for this area. Recreational opportunities and trends would most likely continue to favor those now existing, mainly back country camping, hiking, wildlife viewing, and hunting.

While lack of additional recreational developments such as campgrounds and trail development would be consistent with the more primitive recreational values and physical settings within the NOMA, certain groups may feel deprived due to the lack of developments or facilities in the immediate NOMA area and that such a management scenario would not meet the growing needs of this segment of the population. In fact, planning is currently ongoing to consider recreational development of the Five Mile Pass area, approximately 20 miles south.

OHV Management: All public lands (1,809 acres) west of the line shown on Map 7 would be considered open to off road vehicles on all designated roads and trails. It is anticipated that this OHV designation would help reduce proliferation of unauthorized trails/roads in the areas as well as help reduce attendant erosion from these areas where access has not been constructed to attenuate erosion. There would be a corresponding benefit for the BLM in that this would reduce road maintenance costs and monies could be spent on other programs. Further, designating those roads and jeep trails on the Pass Canyon Bench area as closed to motorized vehicles from December 6th through May 31st of each year would provide additional protection for both crucial deer and elk winter ranges as well as help prevent further deterioration of fragile watershed values found on the lower slopes of the NOMA.

Additional seasonal closures are also anticipated on a temporary basis on designated roads and jeep trails in the Pass Canyon Bench area from November 1st until December 5th as they often become unusable from extensive rutting and erosion during these wet periods and create a costly maintenance burden on the BLM. It is the intent of the BLM to provide appropriate design and re-alignment of selected roads in this area as funding becomes available therefore adverse impacts to potential users would be limited until these roads are improved to all weather status.

All public lands (12,445 acres) east of the line shown on Map 7 would be closed to motorized vehicles all year long, excluding the jeep trail in Bates Canyon.

In effect, it is anticipated that approximately 6 miles of existing primitive jeep and OHV trails would be eliminated from use under this alternative in order to protect other resource values. Local user groups could see this as an adverse impact in that certain activities such as hunting or camping would no longer be accessible via OHV.

OHV closures in this area could also offer additional protection to big game species and raptor nesting sites by ensuring OHV activities do not interfere with use of crucial winter ranges or nesting sites respectively.

◆ ***Issue 5 (under Chapter IV, Alternative 2): Mineral Management:***

**Mineral material sales:** Would not be allowed within the NOMA. This proposed action would have little if any consequence on local operators or existing sand and gravel operations as these existing operations, located outside the NOMA, are meeting both current and projected needs for these materials.

**Locatable Mineral:** Lands within the NOMA would remain open for exploration or development for locatable minerals. Given the lack of past mineral activity as well as the low potential for significant deposits of locatable minerals, little impact to existing claim holders or potential developers would be anticipated. For those lands that would be designated as Closed to OHV as shown on Map 7, plans of operation requiring a minimum thirty day waiting period for analysis of the proposed action would be required in order to conduct exploration or development activities.

**Leasable Minerals:** Lands within the NOMA would be categorized for oil and gas leasing as follows:

Category I:	Open to oil and gas leasing subject to standard lease stipulations	40 acres
Category II:	Open to oil and gas leasing subject to special lease stipulations	10,573 acres
Category III:	No Surface Occupancy	0 acres
Category IV:	Closed to leasing	0 acres

Under this alternative, all of the NOMA would be available for oil and gas leasing. The majority of the area would require special seasonal lease stipulations in order to protect other values. These special stipulations have been described previously under the section entitled **Wildlife and Associated Habitat**. Given the low potential for leasable minerals in this area and lack of past activity in the area, no real impact from these special stipulation requirements would be anticipated. However, should an operator ever lease and submit an application to drill, operations would have to be scheduled in accordance with the season closures specified in the lease. In certain circumstances this could result in increased cost associated with drilling.

◆ **Issue 6 (under Chapter IV, Alternative 2): Cultural Resource Management:**

**Goal/Objective:** As time and budget allow, or need arises, continue to conduct cultural resource inventory on a site or area wide basis. Data gathered would be used to classify similar classes of sites or areas into management categories. The following management objectives would be used:

**Manage for information potential:** Cultural resources under this objective are capable of contributing useful scientific, historic or management information. Information potential on these sites or areas would be protected by physical or administrative means until information potential has been realized. Mitigation to avoid adverse impacts is allowed on sites within this category.

**Manage for Public Values:** Cultural resources included under this objective possess identified socio-cultural, educational, recreational or other public values. These sites or areas would be managed in a manner that considers the values. Mitigation to avoid adverse impacts would be allowed on sites within this category.

**Manage for Conservation Use:** Cultural resources included under this objective have overriding scientific or historic importance. These sites or areas would be managed in a manner that maintains their present condition and scientific potential. Conflicting uses would not be allowed if it is determined that these sites or areas would be impacted. Important sites may be protected through fencing, avoidance or increased surveillance. Mitigation of sites in response to surface disturbing activities would be when authorized by the Utah State Historic Preservation Office (SHPO). Stabilization or interpretation of important sites may also be allowed when authorized by SHPO.

At a minimum, all surface disturbing activities would be required to maintain at least a 200 foot buffer from any National Register Site.

Although it is not anticipated that there would be many National Register sites, the described management objectives for these important resources should be sufficient to protect these sites if found.

◆ **Issue 7 (under Chapter IV, Alternative 2): Visual Resource Management**

Lands within the NOMA would be classified as depicted on Map 9.

VRM I designation:	0 acres
VRM II designation:	12,445 acres
VRM III designation:	1,544 acres
VRM IV designation:	265 acres

The North Oquirrh Mountains represent a very important viewshed for the growing Tooele Valley. The steep mountain slopes, as well as the bench lands, are very visible to the entire valley and because of the soils and slopes that exist, are very fragile and subject to being easily impaired. The VRM designations under this alternative are designed to identify the resources that exist and attempt to help protect the values that are there. The residents of the Tooele Valley have a great interest in protecting their viewshed and visual resources of this important area. Once damaged by unregulated development and motorized vehicles, this fragile area would be very difficult to reclaim and may severely impact the watershed and overall quality of life in the valley. Because of the strategic location at the top of the ridge line of the North Oquirrhs, it is anticipated that there would be increased demands for use of the mountain peaks for communication sites with associated utilities and access.

Under this alternative, VRM Category II lands would be increased from 70,520 acres (3%) of the resource area to 82,965 acres (4%) of the resource area. Increases in the other categories as shown are negligible and would have no significant impact on the resource area.

◆ **Issue 8 (under Chapter IV, Alternative 2): Fire Management**

See Alternative 1.

**CUMULATIVE IMPACTS OF ALTERNATIVE 2:**

The cumulative impacts of this alternative would result in the following changes to the existing Pony Express Resource Area:

Lands available for public sale would increase by 7.75 acres. There would be an increase of 671 acres that would be available for exchange that may be disposed of for other resource lands. There would be an increase of 13,575.25 acres (1% of the lands in the resource area) that would be identified for retention in public management resulting in less than 3.2% of the total resource area being identified for retention. There are two additional locations identified for access acquisition in this resource area. If all the lands in the NOMA were acquired, that would be an increase of 8,900 acres of public land in the resource area. This is an overall increase of less than 1%.

There would be 40 acres of land added to mineral leasing Category I. There would also be 10,573 acres added to the mineral leasing Category II, a 4% increase in this category for the resource area.

There would be 12,445 acres of land closed to OHV in the resource area. This is an increase of less than 1% of the resource area. There would be 1,809 acres of land open to designated roads and trails only.

There would be an increase of 12,445 acres in VRM category II. This would increase this designation from 70,520 acres (3% of the resource area) to 82,965 acres (4% of the resource area). There would be an increase of 1,544 acres of VRM Category III lands and a net loss of 5,698 acres in VRM Category IV lands in the resource area as a result of this alternative.

Overall the cumulative impacts of this alternative are small and do not represent a significant change over the current management prescribed in the RMP. The intent of the alternative is provide more intensive management of the North Oquirrh Management Area to improve the resource values that exist there and to prevent undue and

unreasonable degradation of the resource values that may be impacted by unregulated human activities.

**IRREVERSIBLE AND IRRETRIEVABLE COMMITMENT OF RESOURCES:**

Insignificant loss of 7.75 acres of resource lands in the NOMA. The 671 acres of lands available for disposal by exchange would be replaced in the resource area or elsewhere by lands of equal or greater resource values.

**RESIDUAL IMPACTS:**

Under this alternative, short term residual impacts could include minimal erosion resulting from watershed and vegetation enhancement projects as well as from redesign of access roads and project construction. It is the intent that all surface disturbing activities would be rehabilitated to reduce such impacts.

## **ENVIRONMENTAL CONSEQUENCES OF ALTERNATIVE 3/ENHANCED USE AND DEVELOPMENT**

### **◆ Issue 1 (under Chapter IV, Alternative 3): Land Tenure Adjustments**

The following land exchange criteria would be used to provide additional opportunities for land exchanges;

#### **Disposal Criteria to Apply to Entire Planning Unit**

The following land tenure adjustment criteria would be used to create additional exchange opportunities throughout the Pony Express Resource Area;

1. Land tenure adjustments would be considered where such adjustments are in the public interest and accommodate the needs of local and State people, including needs for the economy, and community growth and expansion and are in accordance with other land exchange goals and objectives and RMP planning decisions;
2. The land tenure adjustment ensures the accessibility of public lands in areas where access is needed and cannot otherwise be obtained;

Management of future land acquisitions would be in accordance with existing land use management prescriptions described in the existing Pony Express RMP and any subsequent amendments. Should some resource conditions or value be identified where existing management decisions are found unsuitable, then additional plan amendments may be required to provide for appropriate management of those parcels.

Implementation of this alternative would not result in any direct impacts to the land surface, however, some changes to the existing land tenure/exchange criteria previously analyzed in the Pony Express Draft EIS would occur. The new criteria would be expected to add considerable flexibility to the planning framework allowing greater potential for disposals to create opportunities for community growth and development, and increased management efficiencies. This alternative would also result in increased opportunities for the BLM to consider land tenure adjustments specifically for the purpose of increasing accessibility to public lands where it is now not available.

#### **Disposal Specific to North Oquirrh Planning Area**

**Disposal Parcels/Exchanges:** All lands within the NOMA would be considered for disposal under FLPMA Section 206 (Exchanges) where determined consistent with goals and objectives of other resource programs.

**Disposal Parcels:** The following parcels would be considered for disposal by any method:

- |    |   |            |
|----|---|------------|
| 1) | T. 3 S., R. 4 W., Section 12: S½SW¼SW¼NW¼ | 5.00 Acres |
| 2) | T. 2 S., R. 4 W., Section 13: Lots 2-5    | 2.75 Acres |

This is an increase of 7.75 acres that would be available for FLPMA section 203 sales and other disposal authorities. Priority for those parcels considered for disposal would be those that benefit community growth and development.

This alternative would result in an additional 14,242 acres being added to the lands available for FLPMA section 206 exchanges. This may result in increased opportunities for exchanges since some of the lands in the NOMA are high value tracts that would be attractive to investors and land speculators.

Acquisitions pursued (under any method) would consider the following guidelines:

Priority for acquisitions should first consider the potential for community growth and development and then be considered where the exchange results in a net gain of important and manageable resource values on public lands such as crucial wildlife habitat, significant cultural resource sites, high quality riparian areas, live water, Threatened or Endangered species habitat, public access, or areas key to the maintenance of productive ecosystems.

All disposals would be subject to existing laws, regulations, policies, and valid existing rights; some of which may preclude disposal. Further, all disposals would be subject to site specific environmental analysis when an actual land exchange proposal is initiated. This proposed decision could allow further management efficiencies for the BLM as well as opportunities for land owners to gain properties that could be considered more desirable for development purposes.

This alternative would also offer the BLM additional opportunities to consider land tenure adjustments that could specifically enhance the management of sensitive resources by allowing the acquisition of such resources. The addition of or blocking up of lands considered to have sensitive values would increase its manageability as well as increase administrative efficiencies. Additional protection of sensitive resources, if needed, could also be applied under this alternative that could enhance, conserve or maintain sensitive resource elements such as crucial wildlife habitat, cultural and historical resources, riparian areas, T&E species and associated habitat etc.

#### **Retention Lands:**

No specific lands in the NOMA would be identified for retention. This alternative could consider the loss of all lands acquired for resource values in the NOMA. Under that scenario, all resource values that were gained by the acquisition of these lands could be lost including access, public recreation, wildlife habitat, watershed, unique species etc. It would also mean the loss of all federal time and money spent acquiring the lands.

#### ◆ ***Issue 2 (under Chapter IV, Alternative 3): Watershed and Vegetation Management***

**Livestock Management:** Change of livestock class could be considered if determined to be consistent with other existing goals and objectives of the area. Consider authorization of additional grazing use for the North Oquirrh Allotment dependant upon the successful completion of proposed rehabilitation projects and completion of a future grazing management plan.

This could result in increased benefits to the permittee by increasing the size of his operation and thereby his economic standing. However, this would also prevent the recovery of the vegetation and damaged watersheds in the NOMA, particularly the Pass Canyon pasture where the native range is in very poor condition due to continued overgrazing over a long period of time. This would also mean the potential for erosion would increase and increases in wildlife use would be limited since increased livestock would deplete wildlife forage.

**Projects:** All projects proposed for the enhancement of livestock operations, wildlife habitat or use by wildlife, vegetation modification or watershed stabilization or enhancement would be considered. The following specific water related projects would be considered in this alternative:

- construct Boyd Spring/Green Ravine pipeline; 1.0 mile
- construct Pole Canyon Pipeline; 2.0 miles
- construct Pass Canyon Pipeline; 2.0 miles

If the above projects were to be constructed, there would be disturbance to the existing vegetation and soils during construction. There would be the loss of less than 3 acres of vegetation, mainly around the spring sources, due to construction methods. The pipe would be placed by ripping the pipe, which is the least surface disturbing method. Placement of the spring boxes and diversion structures would result in 85% of the vegetation loss. Rehabilitation by recontouring and reseeding should minimize and in some cases actually improve vegetation.

Moving the water may impact wildlife species by limiting available water in areas that they are accustomed to using it. Development of the springs may increase the available water, however, and allowing some water to remain at the source for wildlife could offset these impacts.

**Erosion Control:** Consider erosion control methods or projects wherever necessary to reduce existing erosion problems or enhance watershed condition. Specific methods to be considered are inclusive of those identified for vegetation projects but also include the following; appropriate road capping, crowning, reclamation/rehabilitation of problem access areas, water bars, rip rap, culverts and water control structures.

Redesign of Pass Canyon and other associated roads and trails in the area would result in a stable all weather access for the public and lessen site specific erosion. Short term impacts would include a minimal amount of erosion resulting from those areas where re-alignment would occur as new areas are graded to form the new road bed. Minimal surface disturbance would occur on the existing road bed. Approximately 2.0 miles of new gravel would be laid in a manner consistent with approved design standards. A gravel cap over the prepared road base would serve to allow some water infiltration and thereby reduce erosion from the road surface. Appropriate road design in relation to land form would also serve to reduce erosion as well as visual impacts. Water bars would be placed on steeper portions of the access in order to reduce the rate of water flow and subsequent erosion. Properly sized culverts or drainage ditches would be placed where necessary.

The long term impacts of road re-alignment would result in an overall reduction of erosion along the road bed, and a stable all weather access for the public as well as considerable benefits to the BLM due to the reduction in costs associated with annual maintenance on this road. That portion of the road bed left over from re-alignment would be rehabilitated as close as is practical to its original condition.

◆ ***Issue 3 (under Chapter IV, Alternative 3): Wildlife and Associated Habitat***

**Forage allocations:** Provide the following forage allocations for wildlife;

Mule deer: 1,242 AUMs (same as Alternative 2)  
Elk: 321 AUMs

Allow vegetation modification projects that would enhance wildlife values so long as other resource goals and objectives are met. See projects identified under Watershed and Vegetation Management.

Implementation of this alternative would result in impacts similar to Alternative 2 to for mule deer.

This alternative would allow for approximately 56% less AUMs for elk use than in Alternative 2 and would provide a limitation on the expansion of elk that currently inhabit the area. This would result in less competition for forage between elk and other forage users such as deer or livestock.

Benefits to wildlife could accrue through the addition of increased forage availability resulting from vegetation/watershed modification projects. See analysis for projects identified under Watershed and Vegetation Management.

**Crucial habitat and wildlife protection/enhancement needs:** BLM would protect important wildlife habitat values from disturbing activities by restricting seismic work, well development, new road construction, ROWs, organized recreational activities, military exercises, and other disturbing activities, excluding maintenance activities, in the following areas during the stated times:

- 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 of each year or year long if the disturbance would negatively impact the suitability of the site for future nesting,
- 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 1,200 feet of riparian habitats,
  - 5) within crucial mule deer summer/fawning habitats April 15 to July 31,
  - 6) within crucial elk winter range December 1 to April 30 and calving areas May 1 to June 30.
  - 7) within waterfowl habitat, i.e., marsh and wetland areas,
  - 8) 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 would not seriously disturb the wildlife and habitat values being protected.

The additional protection of important wildlife values as proposed above is the same as that described and analyzed for Alternative 2

**Wildlife Introductions:** Consider future transplants of Rio Grande Turkeys in coordination with the Utah Division of Wildlife Resources.

The proposed introduction of the Rio Grande Turkey is the same as that described and analyzed in Alternative 2.

◆ ***Issue 4 (under Chapter IV, Alternative 3): Recreation Management Including Access and OHV Use***

**Goal/Objective:** The lands within the NOMA would be designated as a Special Recreation Management Area (SRMA) with increased emphasis on providing maximum opportunities for recreation developments and use. Management oversight and supervision would increase in the form of campground development, supervision and various forms of access development. The area would be managed in part to provide extensive recreational opportunities for the Wasatch front populations.

Designation of the area as a SRMA would increase the visibility of the area and attract more attention and recreationists to the NOMA. The NOMA is in an ideal location to serve as a recreation site for people living in the Tooele and Salt Lake Valleys. Special designation status would increase the likelihood that the area would receive additional funding and cooperative management proposals from State and local entities. The area would appear on local maps and publications and would therefore see increased usage. Benefits to the local population would be increased purchases at local businesses. Disadvantages to this would be increased traffic, dust, vandalism, and crime in the local area, especially the Pine Canyon community. Community safety would be compromised in the local area because BLM law enforcement would be quickly overwhelmed by the large numbers of users.

The following developments would be considered through subsequent activity plans:

- Pass Canyon Spring Campground and spring development, water acquisition and trail head developments
- Bates Canyon campground
- Crest Trail development
- Flood Canyon to Bates Canyon Trail
- Flood Canyon to Pass Canyon Trail
- Parking development at Churchwood Road

Construction of the above developments would benefit the public by increasing the ease of public use, provide a variety of opportunities for a wider range of the recreating public, and by providing an area where large numbers of people would be able to recreate on public lands. Constructing the above developments would attract 5 to 10 times the number of visitors to the area. This would increase the damage to the lands by increasing the amount of vehicles, animal, and foot traffic on the land, thereby increasing erosion, diminishing air quality for the local community, deteriorating watershed values by eliminating vegetation and increased human and animal

waste, and increasing law enforcement problems such as vandalism, littering, illegal use, and property crimes.

Site plans would be analyzed for the individual developments before actual construction would take place to determine impacts to the environment from the individual projects.

Fees would be instituted on all campgrounds to cover cost of development, maintenance and supervision and could help to alleviate current budget concerns within the district regarding dwindling funds used for recreation and recreation infrastructure maintenance.

**Off Highway Vehicle Use:** The NOMA would receive the following OHV designation:

Open to Designated Roads and Trails with no season restrictions; 14,254 acres

Allowing the area to be open to OHV usage on existing roads and trails would provide for a basically unrestricted use of the area. Based on observing other similar areas where this type of management is used, the following impacts can be expected:

- 1) There would be an increased amount of public use of the area year-round. Increased traffic, noise, dust, vandalism, crime etc. would quickly happen.
- 2) Increased erosion, soil damage, and vegetation damage due to large numbers of vehicles using the area during wet conditions and not staying on designated roads.
- 3) Creation of new roads and trails with resulting damage to vegetation and soils by unmanageable amounts of OHVs at all times.
- 4) Decreasing the usage of the area by wildlife due to large amounts of vehicles at all times of the year.
- 5) Increased abuses of the land including dumping, promiscuous shooting, and other acts of vandalism.

◆ **Issue 5 (under Chapter IV, Alternative 3): Mineral Management**

**Material Sales:** Material sales would be considered on case by case basis on the 40 acre parcel identified as VRM Class IV lands that is within the NOMA.

**Locatable Minerals:** The area would remain open to locatable minerals

**Leasable Minerals:** The land within the NOMA would be categorized as follows:

Category I:	Open to oil and gas leasing, no special lease stipulations	40 acres
Category II:	Open to oil and gas leasing subject to special lease stipulations	10,573 acres
Category III:	No Surface Occupancy	0 acres
Category IV:	Closed	0 acres

This alternative would result in the same impacts identified for Alternative 2.

◆ **Issue 6 (under Chapter IV, Alternative 3): Cultural Resource Management**

**Goal/Objective:** In response to project requirements, continue to conduct cultural resource inventory on a site or area wide basis. Data gathered would be used to classify similar classes of sites or areas into management categories. The following management objectives would be used:

**Manage for information potential:** Cultural resources under this objective are capable of contributing useful scientific, historic or management information. Information potential on these sites or areas would be protected by physical or administrative means until information potential has been realized. Mitigation to avoid adverse impacts would be allowed on sites within this category.

**Manage for Public Values:** Cultural resources included under this objective possess identified socio-

cultural, educational recreational or other public values. These sites or areas would be managed in a manner that considers the values. Mitigation to avoid adverse impacts is allowed on sites within this category.

Under this alternative the management of cultural sites specifically for information potential and for public values would be authorized resulting in the same impacts as identified under Alternative 2. However, no sites or areas would be managed specifically for conservation use resulting in the potential loss of sites that could be found that have overriding scientific or historic importance. Conflicting or disturbing activities could be allowed if the sites were mitigated, generally through recordation or excavation etc., if concurrence were received from the Utah SHPO.

◆ **Issue 7 (under Chapter IV, Alternative 3): Visual Resource Management Classification**

Under this alternative, visual resource management designations are the same as those depicted and analyzed under Alternative 2.

◆ **Issue 8 (under Chapter IV, Alternative 3): Fire Management**

The State of Utah and Tooele County would continue to provide for initial attack and fire suppression in accordance with existing agreements. Due to the developing urban interface and the significant communications sites along the mountain tops, aggressive fire suppression tactics would be used to contain 90% of the fires in the NOMA to 300 acres or less.

Under this alternative, fire management prescriptions are the same as those depicted and analyzed in Alternative 2.

**CUMULATIVE IMPACTS OF ALTERNATIVE 3:**

The cumulative impacts of this alternative would result in the following changes to the existing Pony Express RMP:

Lands available for public sale would increase by 7.75 acres. There would be an increase of 14,254 acres that would be available for exchange that may be disposed of for other resource lands.

No increase would be made in the amount of acreage available for retention beyond the current 411,140 acres now identified. No additional locations are identified for access acquisition in the resource area which could adversely affect the administration of authorized or permitted uses within the resource area as well as eliminate the potential to consider certain types of acquisitions specifically for the purpose of increasing accessibility of public lands for the purposes of recreation, hunting etc.

The overall affect on wildlife would be to enhance less than 1% of the total amount of habitat available for wildlife in the Pony Express Resource Area. While cumulatively this would be insignificant for the whole resource area, it would be considered important especially for deer and elk within the NOMA.

Forage allocations would change slightly within the resource area through the addition of approximately 1,474 AUMs, an increase of 1.05% beyond the current 139,998 AUMs currently authorized in the resource area. While overall this is a minor change, actual allocations for mule deer would be expected to increase by 1224 AUMs ( a 4% increase) and elk allocations by 250 AUMs (a 53% increase).

There would be 40 acres of land added to mineral leasing Category 1 (less than a .0001% increase in the total amount of land available for Category I leasing activities). There would also be 10,573 acres added to the mineral leasing Category II , representing a 4% increase in this category for the resource area.

There would be 8,291 acres of land added to the open to OHV on designated roads and trails in the resource

area. This is an increase of less than 1% of the resource area.

VRM impacts are the same as Alternative II.

**IRREVERSIBLE AND IRRETRIEVABLE COMMITMENT OF RESOURCES:**

Under this alternative there would be a potential loss of 14,254 acres of public lands by exchange. These lands could leave public ownership and constitute an irreversible and irretrievable commitment of resources.

**RESIDUAL IMPACTS:**

Under this alternative, short term residual impacts could include minimal erosion resulting from watershed and vegetation enhancement projects as well as from redesign of access roads and project construction. It is the intent that all surface disturbing activities would be rehabilitated to reduce such impacts.

## **Chapter V: Consultation and Coordination**

### **Consultation with Local and State Government:**

Development of the proposed amendment was coordinated with the following local county, state and federal agencies.

•Tooele County Officials

•Utah State Resource Development Coordination Committee (RDCC) inclusive of the following State Agencies:

Department of Agriculture  
Division of Comprehensive Energy Management  
Department of Environmental Quality including:  
    Air Quality, Water Quality, Solid and Hazardous Wastes, Drinking Water, Radiation Control,  
    Emergency Response and Remediation  
Division of Oil, Gas and Mining  
Parks and Recreation Division  
School and Institutional Trust Lands Administration  
Utah State Science Advisor  
Division of History  
Division of Sovereign Lands and Forestry  
Department of Transportation  
Utah Geological Survey  
Division of Water Resources  
Division of Water Rights  
Division of Wildlife Resources

### **Persons and Agencies Consulted:**

#### **Comments Received During Public Meetings/Open Houses on Proposed Pony Express Plan Amendment**

As stated previously, opportunity for comment on issues and concerns relative to the proposed plan was provided to the public. A summary of this participation is provided below.

<b>List of People Commenting</b>	<b>Concern</b>
Mr. Ed Sheets	Do not provide for vehicle closures. Provide public opportunity to comment on proposed plan. Do not allow area to become a cougar hunting "game reserve". Consider needs of public and local community.
Bonnie Lefler	Do not allow motorized vehicle use. Develop horse back and hiking trails.
Keith Hill	Control access, allow full horse back and hiking access. Allow vehicle access only seasonally for hunt. Allow possible camping sites.
Andrew Boekweg	Make easy access trails for horse back/hiking to high country. Put in water troughs for horses. Allow least amount of vehicle use as possible.

Rick Smith	Limit travel to existing roads. Close roads through Water Fork of Pass to the top. Close left fork of Pass at old cabin.
John B. Pitt	Leave canyons and access open. Make canyon public use and leave campsites natural. Don't develop sites that would attract more people. Do not use fees or reservations for campsites. First come first serve basis. Keep area natural for camping and hunting purposes.
Eric Erickson	Pave canyon access or close it at mouth of canyon to all motorized vehicles.
David Steadman	Ensure some areas are left open to motorized vehicles.
Guy Shields	Leave entire area open to motorized vehicles. Ensure access for elk hunting including pre-season for scouting and upland game purposes. Do not prejudice ATV riders.
Dan LeBlanc	Do not allow ATVs on the area. Close to all motorized vehicles. Use primarily for wildlife and naturalness. Allow hiking, mountain biking and non-motorized uses year round.
Cecil LeBlanc	Coordinate plan with UDWR. Limit use by motorized vehicles. Allow low impact recreation use. No cattle grazing on area. Conduct habitat improvements for wide range of species. Limit trail building for all uses. Involve local residents in decision making to enhance ownership. Close to motorized vehicles with a parking lot inside the gate. Need to ensure open space.
Shaun Taron	Leave open to motorized vehicles all year round.
Bruce Steadman	Keep access to Pass and Bates Canyon open. Access to Kennecott property could be blocked near top. Leave area totally open to motorized access.
Garrit Brunson	Area should be totally open.
Carol Johnson	Do not prohibit public from the area. Use some restrictions to protect area. Protect Murray Canyon, seasonally, the culinary water source for Lincoln and guard wells until hunt is over. Open to designated roads (except ATVs). Main access road should be other than through Lincoln to the Church Road. Minimize impacts to residents of Lincoln.
Devon Iverson	Leave property totally open. Let local users police land. Ensure access to hunt small game.
Scott Iverson	Keep roads open yearlong or seasonally for hunting.
Steve Wilcox	Leave access open year round. Use limited restrictions.
Judy Wilcox	Leave access open year round. Use limited restrictions.
Rudy Drobnick	Leave Flood, Murray and Pass Canyon trail open during all big game and upland game seasons. Allow motorized vehicles for hunting only from the end of Church road to the mouth of Flood, Murray and Pass Canyons. No motorized vehicles in the Canyons. Area overgrazed. Stop grazing for five years (1997-2001). Then limit grazing to flat land below canyon mouths. Allow no more

grazing in the three canyons after the 5 year moratorium, they are too steep for grazing. No roads or trails should be allowed near any of the none hybrid relic oak stands. (Map provided to BLM). Allow key to gate for scientific study of these 3 canyons.

- Derald Evans                      Allow public access to the mouth of Flood, Murray, Bates, Pole, and Rogers Canyons. Provide parking areas with fire guards around them. Remove all grazing. No motorized vehicles should be allowed in any canyon.
- Joseph T. Liddell                      BLM should delve into such public use where feasible for the populace likely to patronize uses for recreation, tourism etc.
- Craig Shields                      Area in question should be open to vehicles on designated roads only. Rest from grazing for a couple of years. Control access only seasonally from September 1 through March 1 to allow for big game hunting.
- Ed Gomer                      Establish big game and livestock fecal study transects. Also establish vegetative transects to reliably monitor changes. Read every 3-5 years. Adjust forage use for provide satisfactory range condition on all sites. Do not allow migration or introduction of wild horses in the North Oquirrhs. Limit access by motorized vehicles to approximately what it is today. Plan hiking trails carefully and in moderation. Construct trails by hand to minimize disturbance.
- Ron & Alice Dale                      Close to all motorized vehicles except during hunting season. Limit to existing roads and trails. Find better enforcement methods. Partnership with family oriented user groups to defray development costs. Have volunteer projects for public to build and police areas.
- Alan Pitt                      Leave area totally open with no restrictions.
- Ron Erickson                      Do not allow four-wheelers except for 5 mile Pass. Range in poor condition and cow numbers should be lowered. Close roads to all vehicles at bottom of canyons.
- George Winkler                      Close area to motorized vehicles with a parking lot inside the gate.

# **APPENDIX A**

## **Summary of Proposed Alternatives**

PROGRAM/DECISION	ALTERNATIVE 1 NO ACTION	ALTERNATIVE 2 PROPOSED ACTION: BALANCED MULTIPLE USE	ALTERNATIVE 3 ENHANCED USE AND DEVELOPMENT
<p style="writing-mode: vertical-rl; transform: rotate(180deg);">LANDS AND REALTY MANAGEMENT ■</p> <p>•Land Tenure Adjustment</p>	<p><b>Disposal:</b> No disposal of land would be authorized within the NOMA. Disposal may continue outside of this NOMA in accordance with the existing decisions in the Pony Express RMP</p> <p>The following acreage figures are approximate:</p> <p>-1,590,886 acres would continue to be available for exchange;</p> <p>-8,924 acres would continue to be available for disposal</p>	<p><b>Disposal Specific to North Oquirrh Planning Area</b></p> <p><b>Disposal Parcels:</b> The following parcels of land in the NOMA would be considered for all forms of disposal:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1) T. 3 S., R. 4 W., Section 12: S<math>\frac{1}{2}</math>SW<math>\frac{1}{4}</math>SW<math>\frac{1}{4}</math>NW<math>\frac{1}{4}</math> 5.00 Acres</li> <li>2) T. 2 S., R. 4 W., Section 13: Lots 2-5 2.75 Acres</li> </ol> <p>The following parcels of land in the NOMA would be considered for disposal by exchange:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1) T. 2 S., R. 4 W., Section 11: All lands north of RR Grade 40.00 Acres</li> <li>2) T. 3 S., R. 4 W., Section 11: All public lands 224.70 Acres</li> </ol> <p>The following areas would be available for exchange proposals within the North Oquirrh Management Area only:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1) T. 2 S., R. 4 W., Section 11: All public lands east and south of UPRR grade: 126.22 Acres</li> </ol> <p>and Section 12: W<math>\frac{1}{2}</math>NE<math>\frac{1}{4}</math>, NW<math>\frac{1}{4}</math>, N<math>\frac{1}{2}</math>SW<math>\frac{1}{4}</math>, SW<math>\frac{1}{4}</math>SW<math>\frac{1}{4}</math>, NW<math>\frac{1}{4}</math>SE<math>\frac{1}{4}</math>: 400.00 Acres</p>	<p><b>Disposal Specific to North Oquirrh Planning Area</b></p> <p><b>Disposal Parcels Exchanges:</b> All lands within the NOMA would be considered for FLPMA Section 206 (Exchanges) where determined consistent with goals and objectives of other resource programs.</p> <p><b>Disposal Parcels Sales:</b> The following parcels would be considered for disposal by sale:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1) T. 3 S., R. 4 W., Section 12: S<math>\frac{1}{2}</math>SW<math>\frac{1}{4}</math>SW<math>\frac{1}{4}</math>NW<math>\frac{1}{4}</math>: 5.00 Acres</li> <li>2) T. 2 S., R. 4 W., Section 13: Lots 2-5: 2.75 Acres</li> </ol> <p>Priority for those parcels considered for disposal would be those that benefit community growth and development.</p>

PROGRAM/DECISION	ALTERNATIVE 1 NO ACTION	ALTERNATIVE 2 PROPOSED ACTION: BALANCED MULTIPLE USE	ALTERNATIVE 3 ENHANCED USE AND DEVELOPMENT
<p style="writing-mode: vertical-rl; transform: rotate(180deg);">■ CONTINUED: LANDS AND REALTY MANAGEMENT ■</p> <p>•Disposal Criteria</p>	<p>No additional disposal criteria would be considered beyond those lands that are currently identified for disposal within the existing planning document, (excluding sales parcels).</p>	<p><b>Disposal Criteria to Apply to Entire Planning Unit</b></p> <p>The following land tenure adjustment criteria would replace the existing disposal related decisions and be used to create additional LTA opportunities throughout the Pony Express Resource Area, including lands within or adjacent to the NOMA.</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Land tenure adjustments would be considered where such adjustments are in the public interest and accommodate the needs of local and State people, including needs for the economy, and community growth and expansion and are in accordance with other land exchange goals and objectives and RMP planning decisions;</li> <li>2. The land tenure adjustments results in a net gain of important and manageable resources values on public lands such as crucial wildlife habitat, significant cultural sites, high quality riparian areas, live water, Threatened &amp; Endangered Species habitat, or areas key to the maintenance of productive ecosystems;</li> <li>3. The land tenure adjustment ensures the accessibility of public lands in areas where access is needed and cannot otherwise be obtained;</li> <li>4. The land tenure adjustment is essential to allow effective management of public lands in areas where consolidation of ownership is necessary to meet resource management objectives; and</li> <li>5. The land tenure adjustment results in acquisition of lands which serve a national priority as identified in national policy directives.</li> </ol> <p>All disposals would be subject to existing laws, regulations, policies, and valid existing rights; some of which may preclude disposal. Further, all disposals would be subject to site specific environmental analysis when an actual land exchange proposal is initiated.</p>	<p><b>Disposal Criteria to Apply to Entire Planning Unit</b></p> <p>The following land tenure adjustment criteria would be used to create additional exchange opportunities throughout the Pony Express Resource Area;</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Land tenure adjustments would be considered where such adjustments are in the public interest and accommodate the needs of local and State people, including needs for the economy, and community growth and expansion and are in accordance with other land exchange goals and objectives and RMP planning decisions;</li> <li>2. The land tenure adjustment ensures the accessibility of public lands in areas where access is needed and cannot otherwise be obtained;</li> </ol> <p>Management of future land acquisitions would be in accordance with existing land use management prescriptions described in the existing Pony Express Resource Management Plan and any subsequent amendments. Should some resource conditions or value be identified where existing management decisions are found unsuitable, then additional plan amendments may be required to provided for appropriate management of those parcels.</p>

PROGRAM/DECISION	ALTERNATIVE 1 NO ACTION	ALTERNATIVE 2 PROPOSED ACTION: BALANCED MULTIPLE USE	ALTERNATIVE 3 ENHANCED USE AND DEVELOPMENT
<p style="writing-mode: vertical-rl; transform: rotate(180deg);">■ CONTINUED: LANDS AND REALTY MANAGEMENT ■</p> <p><b>Acquisition Management</b></p>	<p>Acquisitions would continue to be allowed if determine to be in conformance with existing Pony Express acquisitions criteria or decisions. Additional use authorizations would not be allowed on any future land acquisitions without a subsequent resource management plan amendment.</p>	<p><b>Within the North Oquirrh Management Area:</b> All private lands within the exterior boundaries of the NOMA would be considered suitable for acquisition by exchange. First priority would be given to lands adjacent to existing public lands and to lands above the 5,200 foot elevation. Any and all lands acquired within the exterior boundary of the North Oquirrh Management area would be managed in accordance with the planning decisions contained in this amendment.</p> <p><b>Outside the North Oquirrh Management Area:</b></p> <p>Management of all land acquisitions since the effective date of the Pony Express RMP and future land acquisitions would be in accordance with existing land use management prescriptions described in the existing Pony Express Resource Management Plan and any subsequent amendments. Should some resource conditions or values be identified where existing management decisions are found unsuitable, then additional plan amendments may be required to provided for appropriate management of those parcels.</p>	<p>Acquisitions pursued (under any method) would consider the following guidelines:</p> <p>Priority for acquisitions should first consider the potential for community growth and development and then be considered where the exchange results in a net gain of important and manageable resources values on public lands such as crucial wildlife habitat, significant cultural resource sites, high quality riparian areas, live water, Threatened or Endangered species habitat, public access, or areas key to the maintenance of productive ecosystems.</p>

PROGRAM/DECISION	ALTERNATIVE 1 NO ACTION	ALTERNATIVE 2 PROPOSED ACTION; BALANCED MULTIPLE USE	ALTERNATIVE 3 ENHANCED USE AND DEVELOPMENT
<b>CONTINUED: LANDS AND REALTY MANAGEMENT</b>	<b>•Retention Areas</b> All newly acquired land would be retained in public ownership with no additional opportunity for disposal regardless of benefit.	All other lands in the North Oquirrh Management Area other than those mentioned above would be retained in public ownership and would not be considered further for disposal unless overwhelming need or high value resources not previously identified or considered can be gained.	No specific lands in the NOMA would be identified for retention.
	<b>•Withdrawals</b> No withdrawals would be authorized on any lands within the NOMA.	No withdrawals would be made on any lands within the NOMA.	No withdrawals would be made on any lands within the NOMA.
	<b>•Access Acquisitions</b> None identified.	To enhance public access, BLM would pursue opportunities to acquire access to the Bates Canyon area as shown on Map 3. In order to allow for efficient management, opportunities to acquire administrative access to Pole Canyon would be pursued.	None identified.

PROGRAM/DECISION	ALTERNATIVE 1 NO ACTION	ALTERNATIVE 2 PROPOSED ACTION; BALANCED MULTIPLE USE	ALTERNATIVE 3 ENHANCED USE AND DEVELOPMENT
<p style="writing-mode: vertical-rl; transform: rotate(180deg);">CONTINUED LANDS AND REALTY MANAGEMENT</p> <p><i>Rights-of-Way</i></p>	<p>No additional rights-of-way would be allowed on acquired lands within the NOMA. They would be considered on a case by case basis on other public lands within the NOMA.</p>	<p>Rights-of-Way applications would be considered on a case by case basis, however, rights-of-way would avoid the following areas;</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1) lands within VRM Class II and III areas,</li> <li>2) lands above 5,200 elevation'</li> <li>3) lands with slopes greater than 30%,</li> <li>4) lands within ¼ mile of live water sources, except under ground developments, or where wildlife mitigation would reduce impacts to acceptable levels.</li> </ol> <p>Preference would be given to underground construction methods that can be fully mitigated by proper reclamation and rehabilitation. Rights of way proposed for areas above the 5,200 foot elevation mark must be constructed underground and must be completely rehabilitated. A bond must be accepted for all projects above the 5,200 foot elevation line. Existing rights of way above the 5,200 elevation line would not be considered unless they can be reconstructed underground with complete rehabilitation.</p>	<p>Rights-of-way would be considered on a case by case basis for all lands in the NOMA.</p>

PROGRAM/DECISION	ALTERNATIVE 1 NO ACTION	ALTERNATIVE 2 PROPOSED ACTION; BALANCED MULTIPLE USE	ALTERNATIVE 3 ENHANCED USE AND DEVELOPMENT
<p style="writing-mode: vertical-rl; transform: rotate(180deg);">WATERSHED AND VEGETATION MANAGEMENT</p>	<p><i>-Grazing Management</i></p> <p>Continue to authorize 250 head of cattle from May 16 through June 15 and from September 16 to October 15, (total: 500 AUMs) at 50% federal range. Expansion of livestock operations would not be considered. Change of livestock class would not be considered.</p>	<p>Grazing would continue to be authorized pending application of Utah Standards &amp; Guidelines and other range studies to determine stocking rates, for the Big Canyon and the Pole Canyon pastures (see Map 4) at the following rate: 125 head of cattle from June 16 through October 15 (a total of 250 AUMs on 50% federal range). Cattle would not be put on public land above the 5,200 foot elevation prior to August 15 of any year. The Pass Canyon pasture would be rested from grazing while monitoring studies would be undertaken to evaluate the proper carrying capacity and determine the stocking rates of this pasture.</p>	
	<p><i>-Forage Allocations</i></p> <p>No new forage allocations for the North Oquirrh Allotment would be considered.</p> <p>No new forage allocation would be authorized for wildlife.</p>	<p>Consider authorization of additions or reductions of AUMs for the North Oquirrh Allotment dependant upon the completion of proposed rehabilitation projects, monitoring restrictions and application of suitability criteria.</p> <p>Change of livestock class can be considered if determined to consistent with other existing goals and objectives of the area. Allocation of temporary non renewable AUMs would be considered on lands proposed for disposal.</p>	<p>Consider expansion of AUMs authorized based on success of land treatment projects.</p> <p>Consider expansion of existing livestock operations dependant upon success of proposed land treatment projects.</p> <p>Change of livestock class can be considered if determined to consistent with other existing goals and objectives of the area.</p> <p>Consider authorization of temporary non renewable AUMs for the North Oquirrh Allotment dependant upon the successful completion of proposed rehabilitation projects.</p>

PROGRAM/DECISION	ALTERNATIVE 1 NO ACTION	ALTERNATIVE 2 PROPOSED ACTION; BALANCED MULTIPLE USE	ALTERNATIVE 3 ENHANCED USE AND DEVELOPMENT
<p style="writing-mode: vertical-rl; transform: rotate(180deg);">CONTINUED: WATERSHED AND VEGETATION MANAGEMENT</p> <p><b>-Projects:</b> <b>Fencing</b> <b>Gates</b> <b>Water</b></p>	<p>No additional projects would be considered for the purpose of watershed or livestock operation enhancement including but not limited to; vegetation modifications, erosion stabilization, livestock operations enhancement etc...</p> <p>No additional fencing, gates or water improvements would be allowed.</p>	<p>In general, the following types of projects would be constructed as necessary to maintain or enhance resource values or provide for the enhanced management of livestock or wildlife;</p> <p><b>Fencing:</b> Pass Canyon pasture fence, (enhance livestock distribution to accomplish better forage utilization), approximately 2.0 miles.</p> <p><b>Middle Pasture fence,</b> (enhance livestock distribution to accomplish better forage utilization) approximately 1.0 miles.</p> <p><b>North Canyon Fence,</b> 2.0 miles (enhance livestock distribution to accomplish better forage utilization) .</p> <p><b>All fences</b> would be constructed in accordance with BLM manuals to reduce wildlife injury and mortality.</p> <p><b>Gates:</b> Gates would be placed at the mouths of Bates, Pass, Pole and Flood Canyons to facilitate existing livestock management practices. Consider drift fences where needed.</p> <p><b>Water:</b> In general water development projects would be constructed if they lead to enhanced livestock and wildlife management and are consistent with other resource goals/ objectives and decisions in existing planning documents.</p>	<p>All projects proposed for the enhancement of livestock operations, wildlife habitat or use by wildlife, vegetation modification or watershed stabilization or enhancement would be considered.</p> <p>Specific methods to accomplish the above would require a site specific analysis when the action is proposed.</p> <p><b>Water:</b> In general water development projects would be considered if they lead to enhanced livestock and wildlife management and are consistent with other resource goals/ objectives and decisions in existing planning documents.</p> <p>Specific water related project addressed in this amendment are as follows:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>-construct the Boyd spring/Green Ravine pipeline, 1.0 mile,</li> <li>-construct Pole Canyon pipeline, 2.0 miles,</li> <li>-construct Pass Canyon Pipeline,</li> </ul>

PROGRAM/DECISION	ALTERNATIVE 1 NO ACTION	ALTERNATIVE 2 PROPOSED ACTION; BALANCED MULTIPLE USE	ALTERNATIVE 3 ENHANCED USE AND DEVELOPMENT
<p style="writing-mode: vertical-rl; transform: rotate(180deg);">■ CONTINUED: WATERSHED AND VEGETATION MANAGEMENT ■</p> <p>■ <b>Vegetation Enhancement / Modifications</b></p>	<p>No rangeland improvements for the purpose of enhancing vegetation would be allowed</p> <p>Specific watershed enhancement projects would not be allowed.</p>	<p>Consider various types of land/vegetation modification methods including but not limited to prescribed fire, disking, rangeland drills, chains and reseeding, herbicides, hand tools etc...if such projects could reasonable assure progression towards properly function ecosystem including reduction in erosion or sedimentation rates, appropriate or desired vegetative composition, reduction in noxious weeds or enhancement of livestock management, wildlife habitat or visual resources.</p> <p>Specific vegetation enhancement projects that could be conducted by various methods addressed in this proposed amendment (except chaining) include the following areas;</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>-approximately 800+ acres below the 5,200 foot elevation line (generally located below the Pass Canyon area),</li> <li>-approximately 300+ acres below the 5,200 foot elevation line (generally located below the Big Canyon area</li> </ul> <p>All watershed or vegetation projects would require a minimum of 2 year rest from livestock grazing. Monitoring would be conducted to determine if longer resting periods are needed.</p>	<p>None identified.</p>

PROGRAM/DECISION	ALTERNATIVE 1 NO ACTION	ALTERNATIVE 2 PROPOSED ACTION; BALANCED MULTIPLE USE	ALTERNATIVE 3 ENHANCED USE AND DEVELOPMENT
<p style="writing-mode: vertical-rl; transform: rotate(180deg);">CONTINUED WATERSHED AND VEGETATION MANAGEMENT</p> <p><b>•Erosion Control</b></p>	<p>No erosion control structures would be authorized.</p> <p>Specific erosion control projects would not be allowed.</p>	<p>Construct erosion control methods or projects wherever necessary to reduce existing erosion problems or enhance watershed condition/functioning. Specific methods to be considered are inclusive of those identified for vegetation projects but also include the following; appropriate road capping, crowning, reclamation/rehabilitation of problem access areas, water bars, rip rap, culverts and water control structures. The following projects would be considered in this alternative:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>-Redesign main Pass Canyon Road on bench areas (2.0 miles) using re-assignment, grading, graveling/crowning, water bars, and appropriate drainage methods.</li> <li>-Close the following trails know to cause excessive erosion, maintenance and/or safety problems; Pass Canyon jeep trail, Big Canyon jeep trail, Big Spring jeep trail, Murray Canyon jeep trail as well as other small trails resulting form indiscriminate use. Administrative or permitted uses would continue to be allowed.</li> </ul>	<p>Consider erosion control methods or projects wherever necessary to reduce existing erosion problems or enhance watershed condition. Specific methods to be considered are inclusive of those identified for vegetation projects but also include the following; appropriate road capping, crowning, reclamation/rehabilitation of problem access areas, water bars, rip rap, culverts and water control structures.</p>
<p><b>•Water</b></p>	<p>No additional water rights or water projects would be authorized.</p>	<p>Pursue water rights as necessary or as opportunity arises to provide benefits for livestock and wildlife or public values.</p>	<p>No additional water rights or water projects would be authorized.</p>
<p><b>•Hybrid Oak Protection</b></p>	<p>Managerial or administrative protection for the hybrid oak areas would not be authorized.</p>	<p>The following mitigation would be required for any surface disturbing activity that could adversely affect hybrid oak stands, unless it is shown to the satisfaction of the authorized officer, that such effects could be mitigated.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Hybrid oak clones would be preserved and shall not be damaged or removed by any permitted use.</li> <li>- Individual clones that are in danger would be fenced to protect them from damage.</li> <li>- A Plan of Operations and bonding would be required for any project that would take place closer than 100 feet to an oak clone in this OHV closed area.</li> </ul>	<p>No protection identified</p>

PROGRAM/DECISION	ALTERNATIVE 1 NO ACTION	ALTERNATIVE 2 PROPOSED ACTION; BALANCED MULTIPLE USE	ALTERNATIVE 3 ENHANCED USE AND DEVELOPMENT
<p style="writing-mode: vertical-rl; transform: rotate(180deg);">WILDLIFE AND ASSOCIATED HABITAT</p> <p><i>•Forage Allocations</i></p>	<p>No new forage allocation would be authorized for wildlife.</p>	<p>Provide the following forage allocations for wildlife;</p> <p>Mule deer: 1,224 AUMs (conversion factor 8.9/AUM winter and 5.8/AUM in summer)</p> <p>Elk: 571 AUMs (conversion factor 2.1/AUM)</p> <p>Allow vegetation modification projects that would enhance wildlife values so long as other resource goals and objectives are met. See projects identified under Watershed &amp; Vegetation Management.</p>	<p>Provide the following forage allocations for wildlife;</p> <p>Mule deer: 1,224 AUMs</p> <p>Elk: 250 AUMs</p> <p>Allow vegetation modification projects that would enhance wildlife values so long as other resource goals and objectives are met. See projects identified under Watershed &amp; Vegetation Management.</p>

PROGRAM/DECISION	ALTERNATIVE 1 NO ACTION	ALTERNATIVE 2 PROPOSED ACTION; BALANCED MULTIPLE USE	ALTERNATIVE 3 ENHANCED USE AND DEVELOPMENT
<p style="writing-mode: vertical-rl; transform: rotate(180deg);">■ CONTINUED: WILDLIFE AND ASSOCIATED HABITAT ■</p> <p><b>•Critical/Crucial Habitat and Wildlife Protection Needs</b></p>	<p>No habitat protection or improvements projects would be allowed.</p> <p>No additional mitigation would be allowed to protect wildlife.</p>	<p>BLM would 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 times:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1) within mule deer winter range December 1 to April 15,(8,374 acres)</li> <li>2) within 0.5 mile of active raptor nest sites March 1 to July 15 of each year or year long if the disturbance would negatively impact the suitability of the site for future nesting,</li> <li>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,</li> <li>4) within 1,200 feet of riparian habitats,</li> <li>5) within crucial mule deer summer/fawning habitats April 15 to July 31, (663 acres).</li> <li>6) within crucial elk winter range December 1 to April 30 and calving areas May 1 to June 30. (10,178 acres)</li> <li>7) within waterfowl habitat, i.e.; marsh and wetland areas,</li> <li>8) within .5 mile of bald eagle roost sites between November 15 and March 15.</li> </ol> <p>Specific exceptions may granted by BLM if the proposed activity will not seriously disturb the wildlife habitat values being protected.</p>	<p>BLM would 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 times:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1) within mule deer winter range December 1 to April 15,</li> <li>2) within 0.5 mile of active raptor nest sites March 1 to July 15 of each year or year long if the disturbance would negatively impact the suitability of the site for future nesting,</li> <li>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,</li> <li>4) within 1,200 feet of riparian habitats,</li> <li>5) within crucial mule deer summer/fawning habitats April 15 to July 31,</li> <li>6) within crucial elk winter range December 1 to April 30 and calving areas May 1 to June 30.</li> <li>7) within waterfowl habitat, i.e.; marsh and wetland areas,</li> <li>8) within .5 mile of bald eagle roost sites between November 15 and March 15.</li> </ol> <p>Specific exceptions may granted by BLM if the proposed activity will not seriously disturb the wildlife habitat values being protected.</p>
<p><b>•Wildlife Introduction/Reintroduction</b></p>	<p>Introduction of the Rio Grande Turkey would not be considered.</p>	<p>Consider future transplants of Rio Grande Turkeys in coordination with the Utah Division of Wildlife Resources.</p>	<p>Consider future transplants of Rio Grande Turkeys in coordination with the Utah Division of Wildlife Resources.</p>

PROGRAM/DECISION	ALTERNATIVE 1 NO ACTION	ALTERNATIVE 2 PROPOSED ACTION: BALANCED MULTIPLE USE	ALTERNATIVE 3 ENHANCED USE AND DEVELOPMENT
<p style="writing-mode: vertical-rl; transform: rotate(180deg);">RECREATION MANAGEMENT INCLUDING ACCESS AND OHV USE</p> <p><i>-Goal &amp; Objective</i></p>	<p>No specific goals or objectives would be provided for lands within the NOMA.</p>	<p>The lands within the North Oquirrh Management Area would designated as an Extensive Resource Management Area (ERMA). The goal of this ERMA would be to provide for dispersed, unregulated and unconfined recreation experiences with minimal oversight or supervision consistent with the existing primitive/non-motorized and semi primitive/ motorized physical setting that now exists in the North Oquirrh Management Area.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Recreational Developments; Consistent with the existing physical setting of the area, no new additional recreational facilities would be constructed in the ERMA.</li> <li>• Trails &amp; Signs; No new trails would be constructed within the North Oquirrh Management Area. Additional signing would be allowed in order to protect visitor safety or protect natural resources where such conditions may be found.</li> </ul>	<p>lands within the NOMA would be designated as a Special Recreation Management Area (SRMA) with increased emphasis on providing maximum opportunities for recreation developments and use. Management oversight and supervision would increase in the form of campground development, supervision and various forms of access development.</p> <p>The area would be managed in part to provide recreational opportunities for the Wasatch Front populations.</p> <p>Fees would be instituted on all developed campgrounds to cover cost of maintenance and supervision.</p> <p>Specific recreational developments including, campgrounds, access, interpretive sites etc., would be subject to further activity planning and site or area specific analysis. The following developments would be considered during further activity planning stages;</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>-Pass Canyon Spring campground and spring development, water acquisition and trail head development,</li> <li>-Bates Canyon Head Campground,</li> <li>-Crest Trail Development,</li> <li>-Flood Canyon to Bates Canyon Trail,</li> <li>-Flood Canyon to Pass Canyon Trail,</li> <li>-Parking development at Churchwood Road.</li> </ul>

PROGRAM/DECISION	ALTERNATIVE 1 NO ACTION	ALTERNATIVE 2 PROPOSED ACTION; BALANCED MULTIPLE USE	ALTERNATIVE 3 ENHANCED USE AND DEVELOPMENT
<p style="writing-mode: vertical-rl; transform: rotate(180deg);">CONTINUED: RECREATION MANAGEMENT INCLUDING ACCESS AND OHV USE</p> <p><b>•OHV Use</b></p>	<p>The NOMA would remain closed to motorized vehicle use in accordance with the existing temporary closure now in affect.</p>	<p><b>Open to Motorized Vehicles only on Designated Roads and Trails:</b></p> <p>All lands below (west) of line shown on Map 7. This line is intended to generally represent the boundary between lands with slope above 20% (18 degrees) from those below, except for canyon bottoms. Approximate acreage: 1,809 acres.</p> <p><b>Closed to all Motorized Vehicles all year:</b></p> <p>All lands above (east) of the above described line. Approximate acreage is 12,445 acres.</p>	<p>The NOMA would receive the following OHV designation:</p> <p>Open to designated roads and trails with no seasonal restrictions: 12,445 acres</p>
<p><b>•Exceptions to OHV restrictions</b></p>	<p>None.</p>	<p>Motorized access on designated roads and trails on the Pass Canyon Bench as shown on Map 7 would be limited to the period of time between June 1 and October 31 in order to protect crucial wildlife habitat and prevent erosion damage to soils. If conditions permit, this open period may be extended by the BLM Authorized Officer to include the period through December 5th.</p> <p><b>Other:</b> Snowmobile use is prohibited in all crucial deer winter range as identified on Map 5.</p>	<p>None.</p>
<p><b>•Other/ trails, signs etc.</b></p>	<p>No new trails, or other recreational developments would be authorized.</p>	<p>No new trails, or other recreational developments would be authorized.</p>	<p>The following developments would be considered through subsequent activity plans:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>-Pass Canyon Spring Campground and Spring Development, water acquisition and trail head developments</li> <li>-Bates Canyon Head campground</li> <li>-Crest Trail development</li> <li>-Flood Canyon to Bates Canyon Trail</li> <li>-Flood Canyon to Pass Canyon Trail</li> <li>-Parking development at Churchwood Road</li> </ul> <p>Fees would be instituted on all campgrounds to cover costs of development, maintenance and supervision.</p>

PROGRAM/DECISION	ALTERNATIVE 1 NO ACTION	ALTERNATIVE 2 PROPOSED ACTION: BALANCED MULTIPLE USE	ALTERNATIVE 3 ENHANCED USE AND DEVELOPMENT	
MINERALS MANAGEMENT	<b>•Material Sales</b>	No material sales would be authorized within the NOMA.	No additional material sales would be considered in the North Oquirrh Management Areas.	Additional material sales would be considered on case by case basis within 40 acres of VRM Class IV within the NOMA.
	<b>•Locatable Minerals</b>	The area would remain open to locatable mineral exploration and development.	The area would remain open to locatable minerals; however, mining activities would require a plan of operations and bonding prior to mining operations and closed to OHV areas.	The area would remain open to locatable mineral.
	<b>•Leasable Minerals</b>	The area would remain open to oil and gas leasing activities.  Valid existing rights for minerals operations would be recognized.	The lands within the North Oquirrh Management Area would be categorized for oil and gas resources as follows:  Category I: Open to oil and gas leasing, no special lease restrictions: 40 acres  Category II: Open to oil and gas leasing subject special lease restrictions: 10,573 acres  Category III: No surface occupancy: 0 acres  Category IV: Closed: 0 acres	The lands within the NOMA would be categorized as follows  Category I: Open to oil and gas leasing, no special lease restrictions; 40 acres. All activities would be subject to standard lease stipulations.  Category II: Open to oil and gas leasing subject special lease restrictions as identified in Alternative 2; 10,573 acres  Category III: No Surface Occupancy: 0 acres  Category IV: Closed to Oil and Gas Leasing: 0 Acres

PROGRAM/DECISION	ALTERNATIVE 1 NO ACTION	ALTERNATIVE 2 PROPOSED ACTION; BALANCED MULTIPLE USE	ALTERNATIVE 3 ENHANCED USE AND DEVELOPMENT
• <i>Goal/Objective</i>	No goals and objectives for the management of cultural resources within the NOMA would be recognized. Natural process would continue to act on these resources with no human intervention.	As time and budget allow, or need arises continue to conduct cultural resource inventory on a site or area wide basis. Data gathered would be used to classify similar classes of sites or areas into management categories.  The following management objectives would be used:	In response to project needs, continue to conduct cultural resource inventory on a site or area wide basis. Data gathered would be used to classify similar classes of sites or areas into management categories.  The following management objectives would be used:
• <i>Information Potential</i>	Sites or areas would not be managed for information potential, public values or conservation use. Further inventory and classification of the cultural resources would take place as needed.	Manage for information potential: Cultural resources under this objective are capable of contributing useful scientific, historic or management information. Information potential on these sites or areas is to be protected by physical or administrative means until information potential has been realized. Mitigation to avoid adverse impacts is allowed on sites within this category.	Manage for information potential: Cultural resources under this objective are capable of contributing useful scientific, historic or management information. Information potential on these sites or areas is to be protected by physical or administrative means until information potential has been realized. Mitigation to avoid adverse impacts is allowed on sites within this category.
• <i>Public Values</i>		Manage for Public Values: Cultural resources included under this objective possess identified sociocultural, educational recreational or other public values. These sites or areas would be managed in a manner that considers the values. Mitigation to avoid adverse impacts is allowed on sites within this category.	Manage for Public Values: Cultural resources included under this objective possess identified sociocultural, educational recreational or other public values. These sites or areas would be managed in a manner that considers the values. Mitigation to avoid adverse impacts is allowed on sites within this category.
• <i>Conservation Use</i>		Manage for Conservation Use: Cultural resources included under this objective have overriding scientific or historic importance. These sites or areas are to be managed in a manner that maintains their present condition and scientific potential. Conflicting uses would not be allowed if it is determined that these sites or areas would be impacted.	No specific sites or areas would be managed specifically for conservation use.
• <i>Other</i>		Important sites may be protected through fencing, avoidance or increased surveillance. Mitigation of sites in responses to surface disturbing activities is allowed when authorized by the Utah State Historic Preservation Office (SHPO). Stabilization or interpretation of important sites may also be allowed when authorized by SHPO.  At a minimum, all surface disturbing activities would be required to maintain at least a 200 foot buffer from any National Register site.	

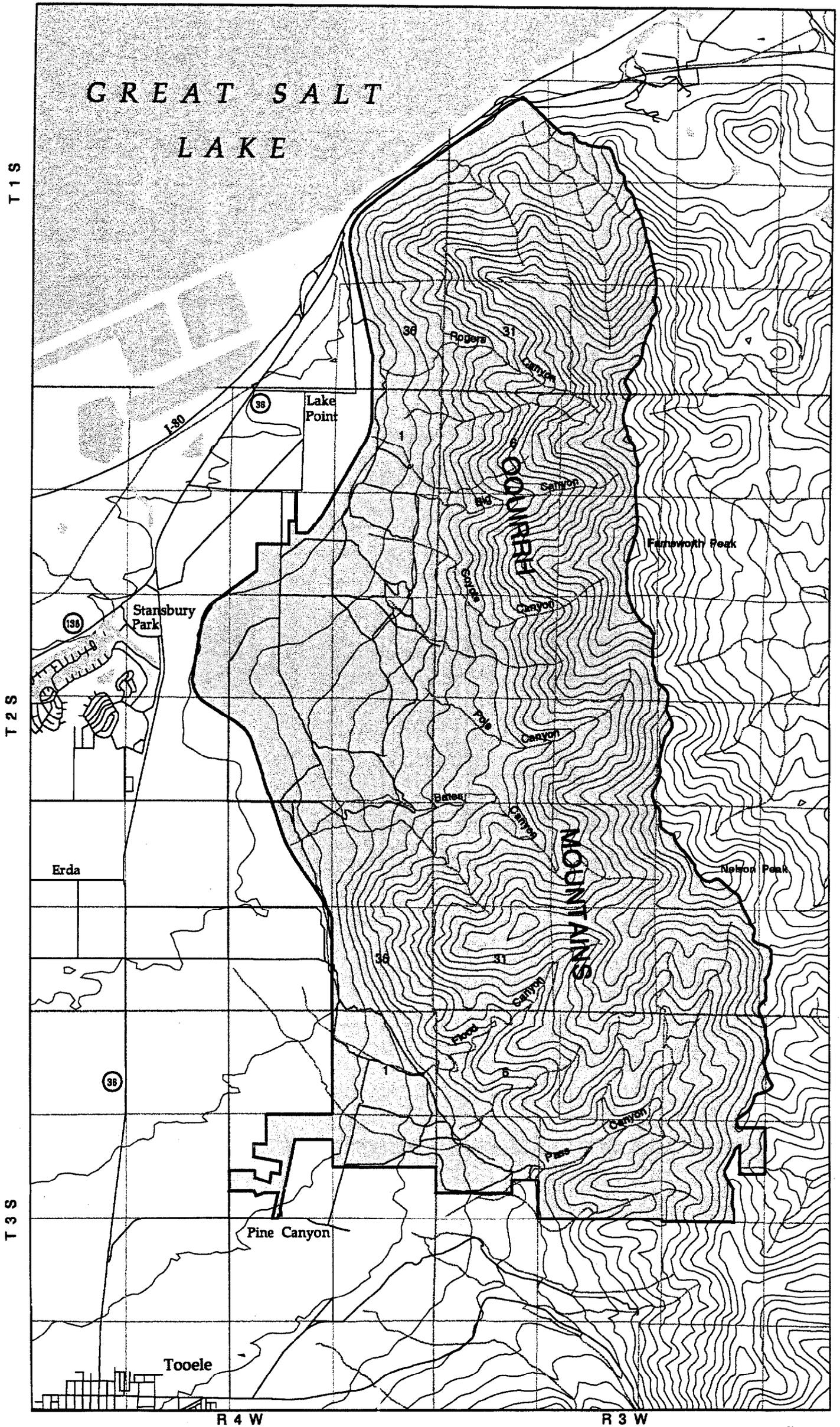
PROGRAM/DECISION	ALTERNATIVE 1 NO ACTION	ALTERNATIVE 2 PROPOSED ACTION; BALANCED MULTIPLE USE	ALTERNATIVE 3 ENHANCED USE AND DEVELOPMENT
<p>■ VISUAL RESOURCE MANAGEMENT ■</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• VRM Class II Areas</li> <li>• VRM Class III Areas</li> <li>• VRM Class IV Areas</li> </ul>	<p>Further inventory or classification of visual resources would not take place.</p> <p>None.</p> <p>None.</p> <p>None.</p>	<p>The lands within the North Quirrh Management Area would be classified as depicted on map 8.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• VRM III/designations/acres: 12,445 acres</li> <li>• VRM III/designation/acres: 1,544 acres</li> <li>• VRM IV/designations/acres: 285 acres</li> </ul>	<p>The lands within the North Quirrh Management Area would be classified as depicted on map 8.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• VRM II/designations/acres: 12,445 acres</li> <li>• VRM III/designation/acres: 1,544 acres</li> <li>• VRM IV/designations/acres: 285 acres</li> </ul>
<p>■ FIRE MANAGEMENT ■</p> <p><i>Goals and Objectives</i></p>	<p>The State of Utah and Tooele County would continue to provide for initial attack and fire suppression accordance with existing agreements.</p> <p>Due developing urban interface and the significant communication site developments, aggressive fire suppression tactics would be used to contain 80% of fires in the NOMA to 300 acres or less.</p> <p>Fire suppression signs would be placed at main entrance points.</p> <p>Use of prescribed fire would be minimal.</p>	<p>Same as Alternative 1</p>	<p>Same as Alternative 1</p>

# **APPENDIX B**

## **MAPS**

**Designations on maps effect only public lands administered by the Bureau of Land Management and not privately owned lands.**

MAP 1 GENERAL LOCATION

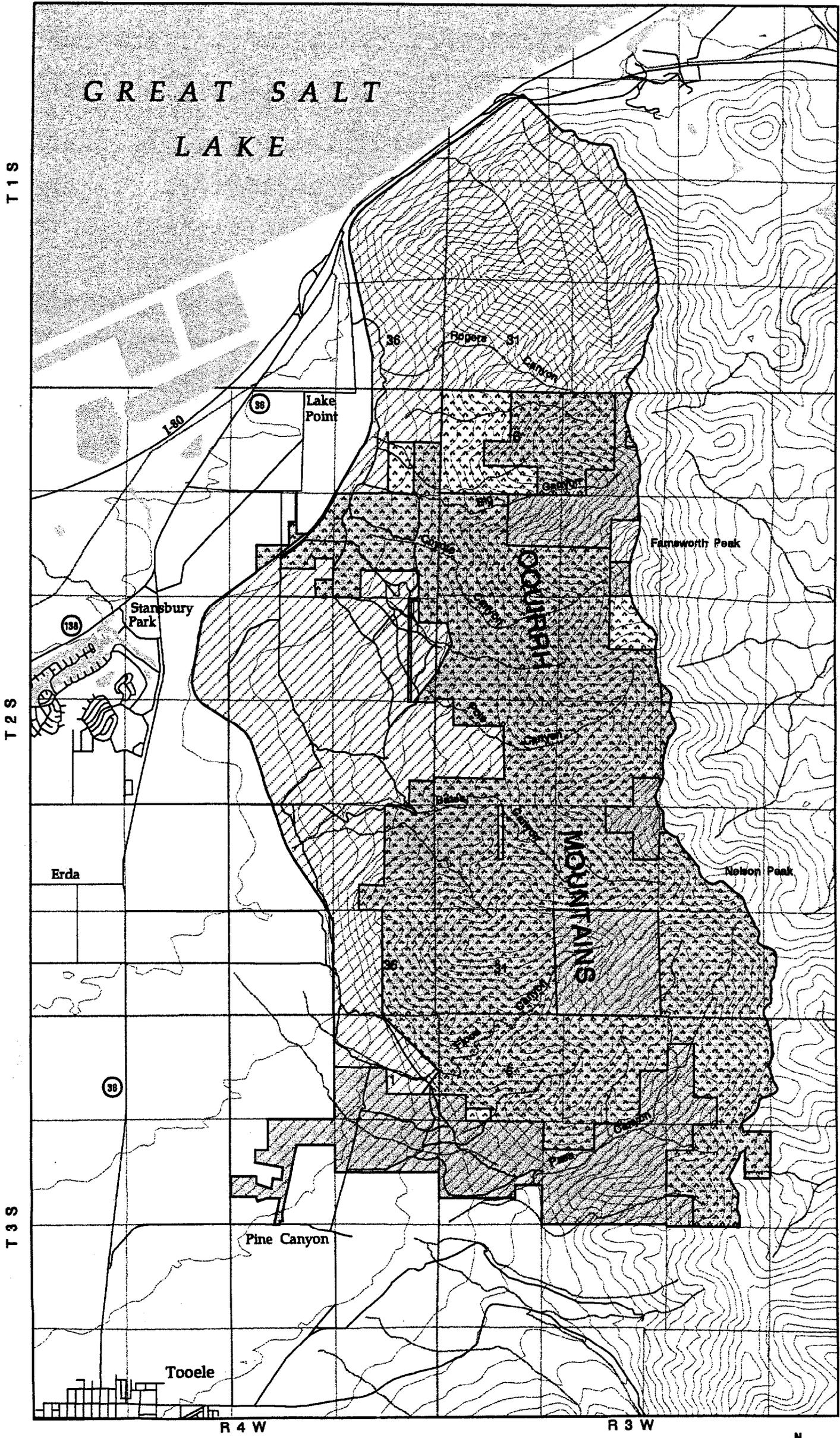


North Oquirrh Management Area

1 0 1 2 Miles

SCALE 1:70,000

MAP 2 LAND OWNERSHIP



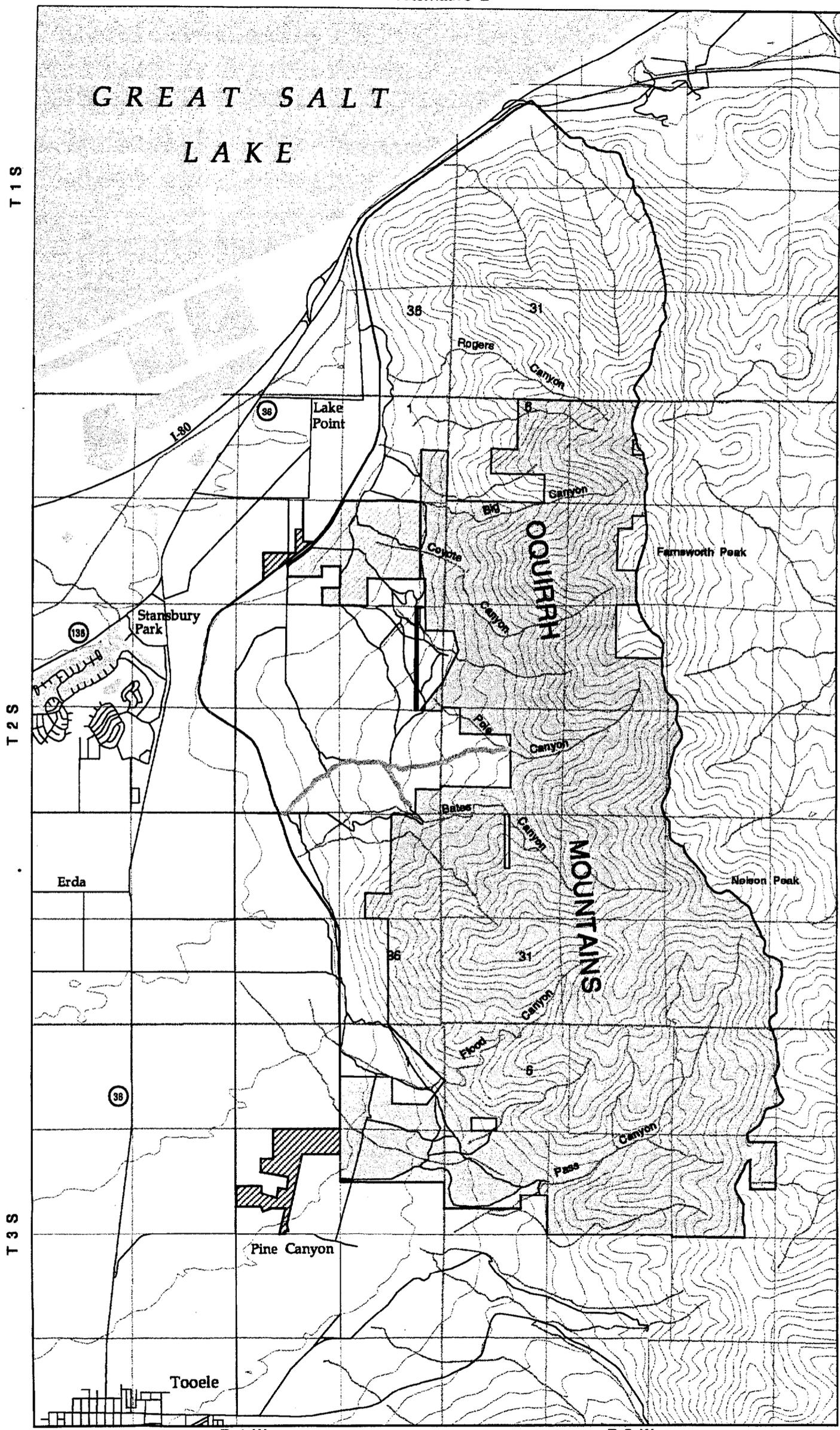
Surface	Mineral
Public	Public
Private	Private

1 0 1 2 Miles

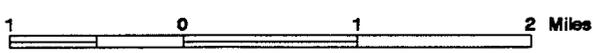
SCALE 1:70,000



MAP 3 LAND TENURE  
Alternative 2



-  Retention
-  Ownership adjustment by exchange
-  Disposal by exchange
-  Disposal by sale or exchange
-  Proposed Access Acquisition



SCALE 1:70,000

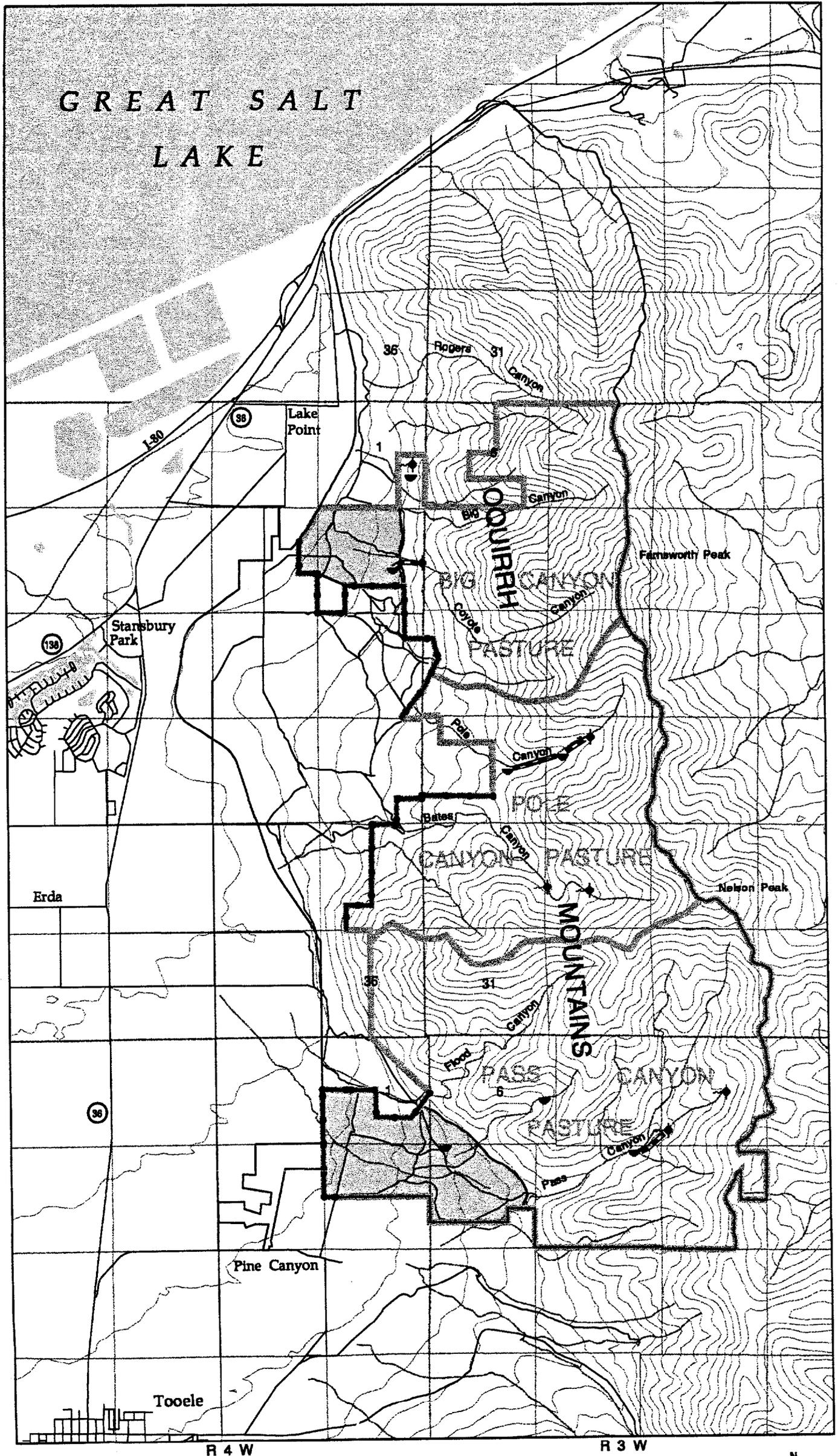


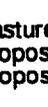
MAP 4 WATERSHED AND VEGETATION MANAGEMENT  
Alternative 2

T 1 S

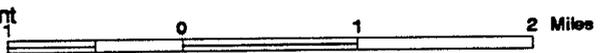
T 2 S

T 3 S



-  Pasture Boundary
-  Proposed Pipeline
-  Proposed Fence

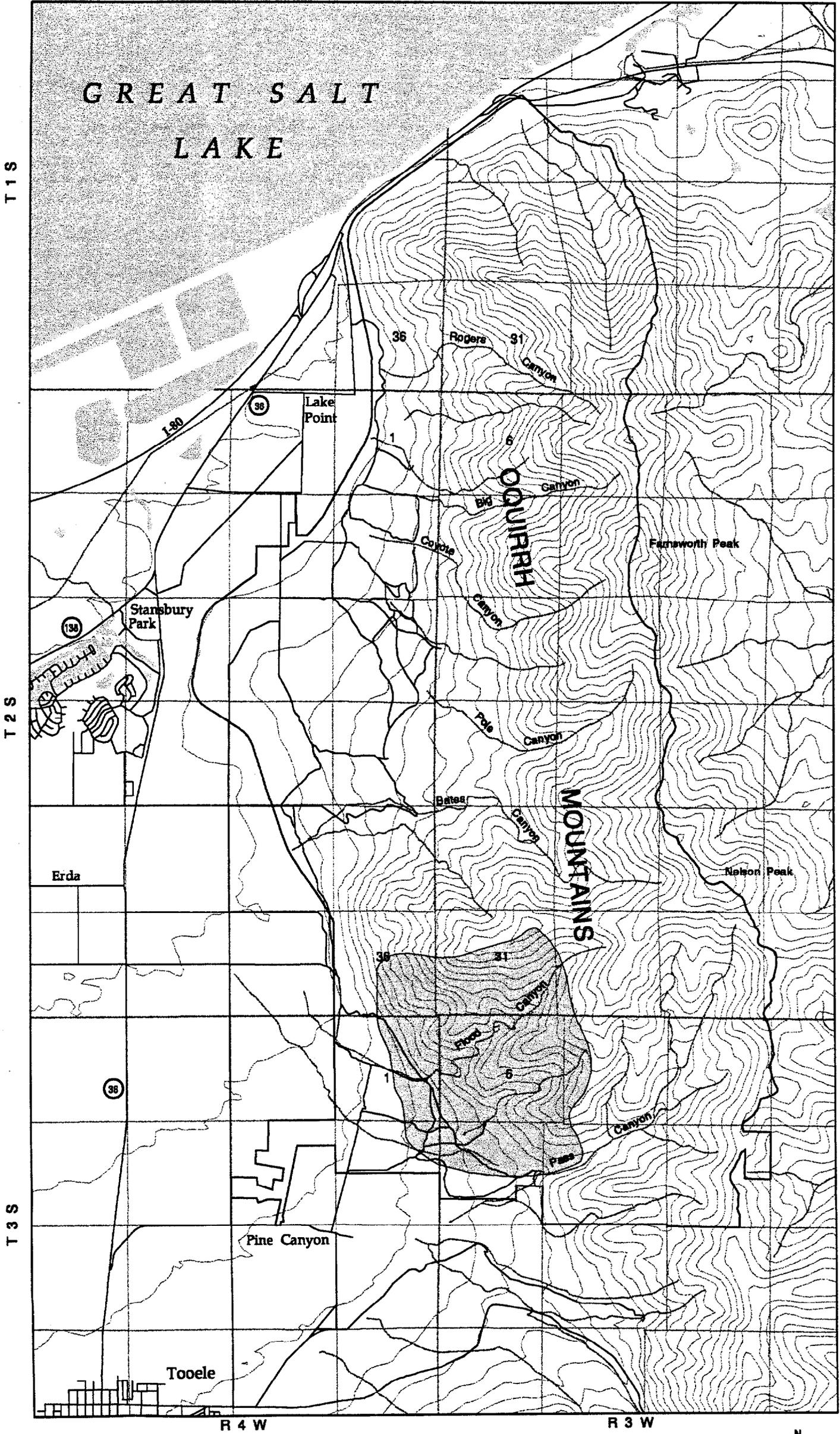
-  Proposed Land Treatment
-  Springs
-  Proposed Trough



SCALE 1:70,000



MAP 4A HYBRID OAK  
Alternative 2



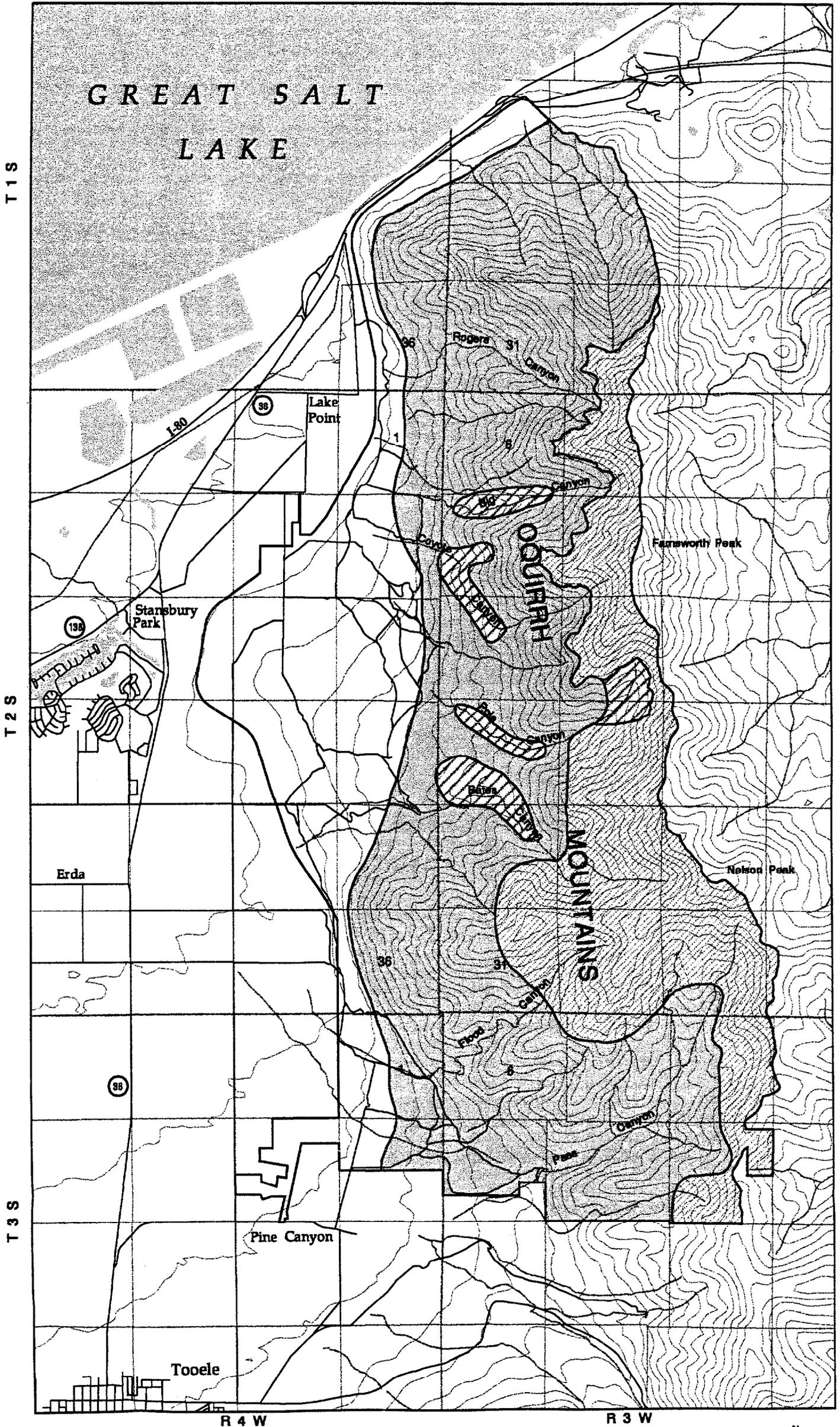
 Hybrid Oak Area



SCALE 1:70,000



MAP 5 MULE DEER HABITAT  
Alternative 2



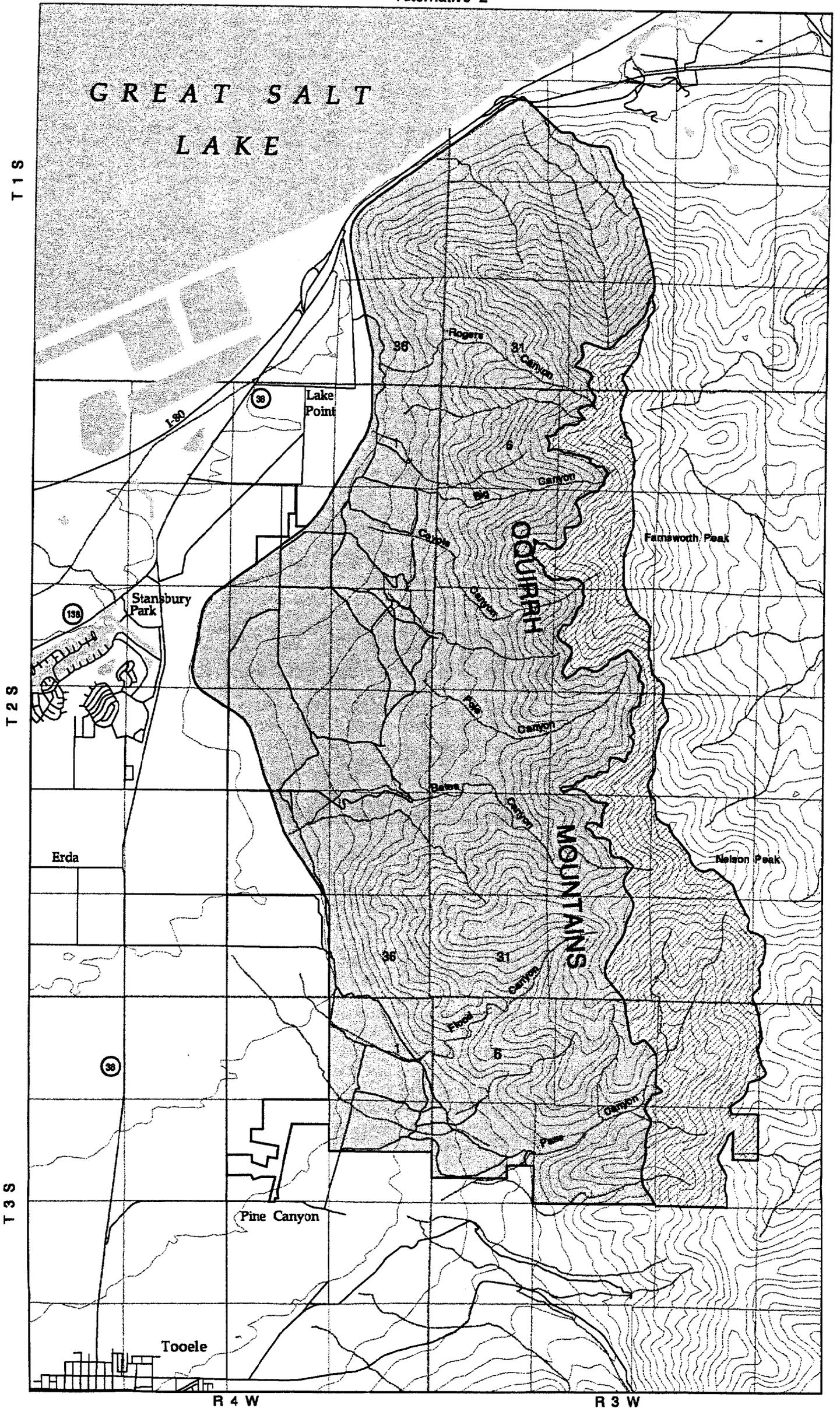
-  Crucial Mule Deer Fawning Range
-  Mule Deer Summer Range
-  Crucial Mule Deer Winter Range



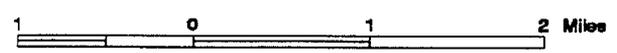
SCALE 1:70,000



MAP 6 ELK HABITAT  
Alternative 2



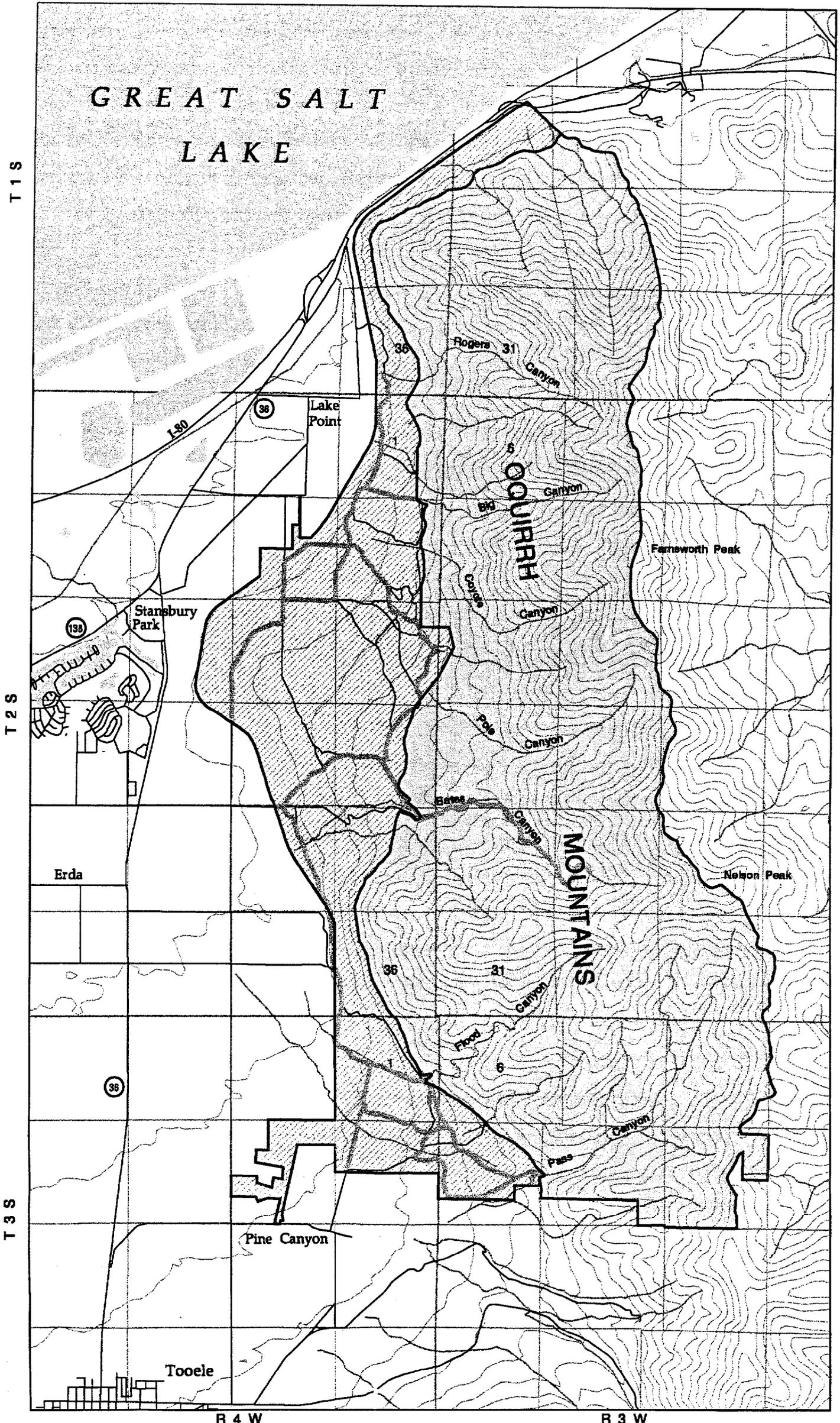
Crucial Elk Calving Range  
Crucial Elk Winter Range



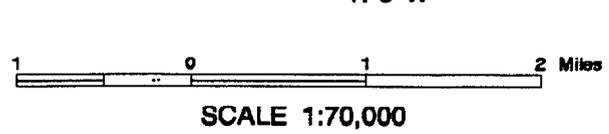
SCALE 1:70,000



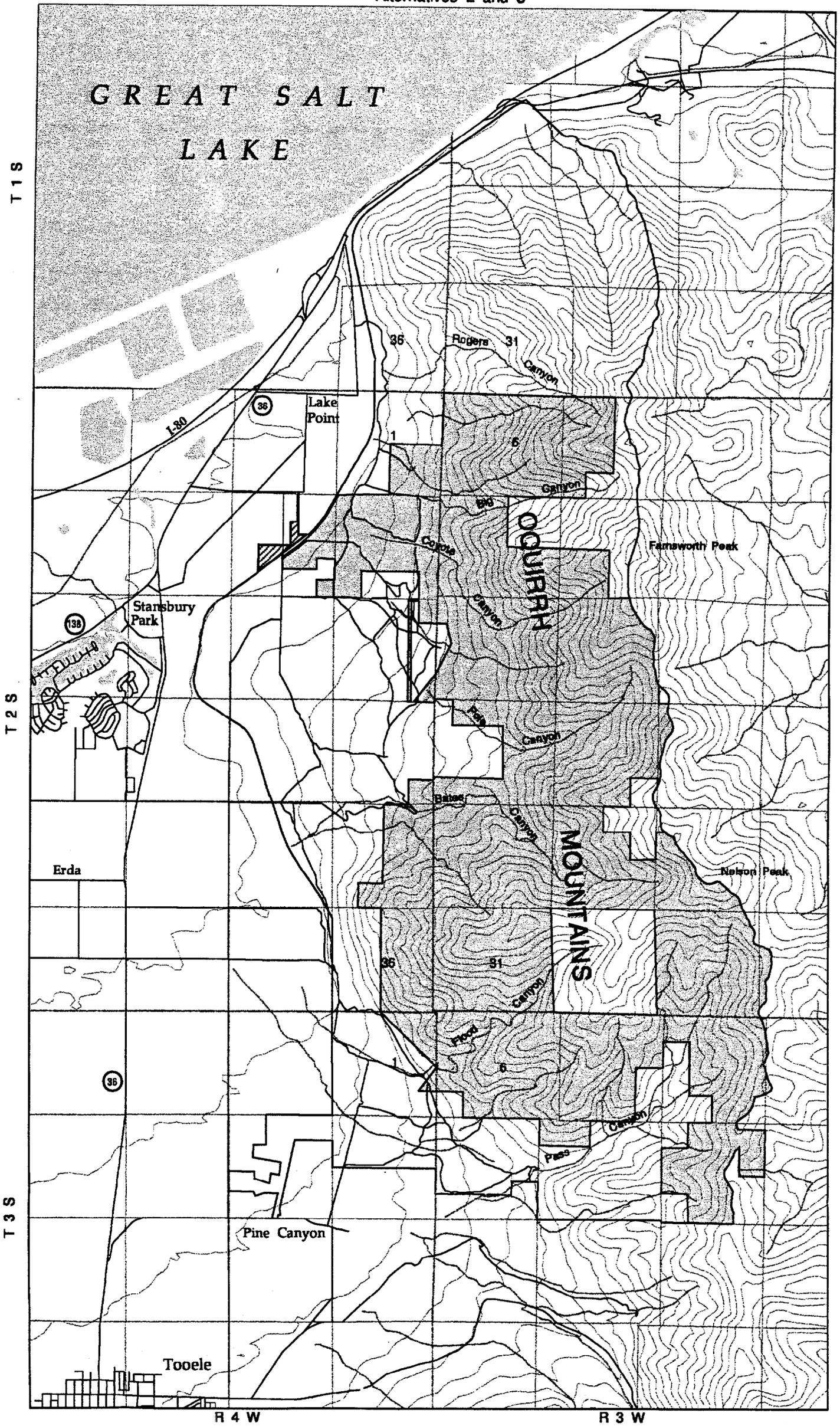
MAP 7 OFF HIGHWAY VEHICLE USE  
Alternative 2



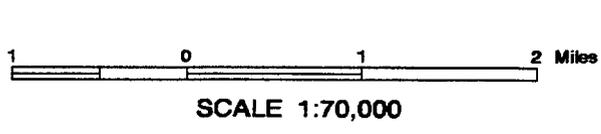
-  Closed to OHV Use
-  OHV Limited to Designated Roads and Trails
-  Designated Roads and Trails



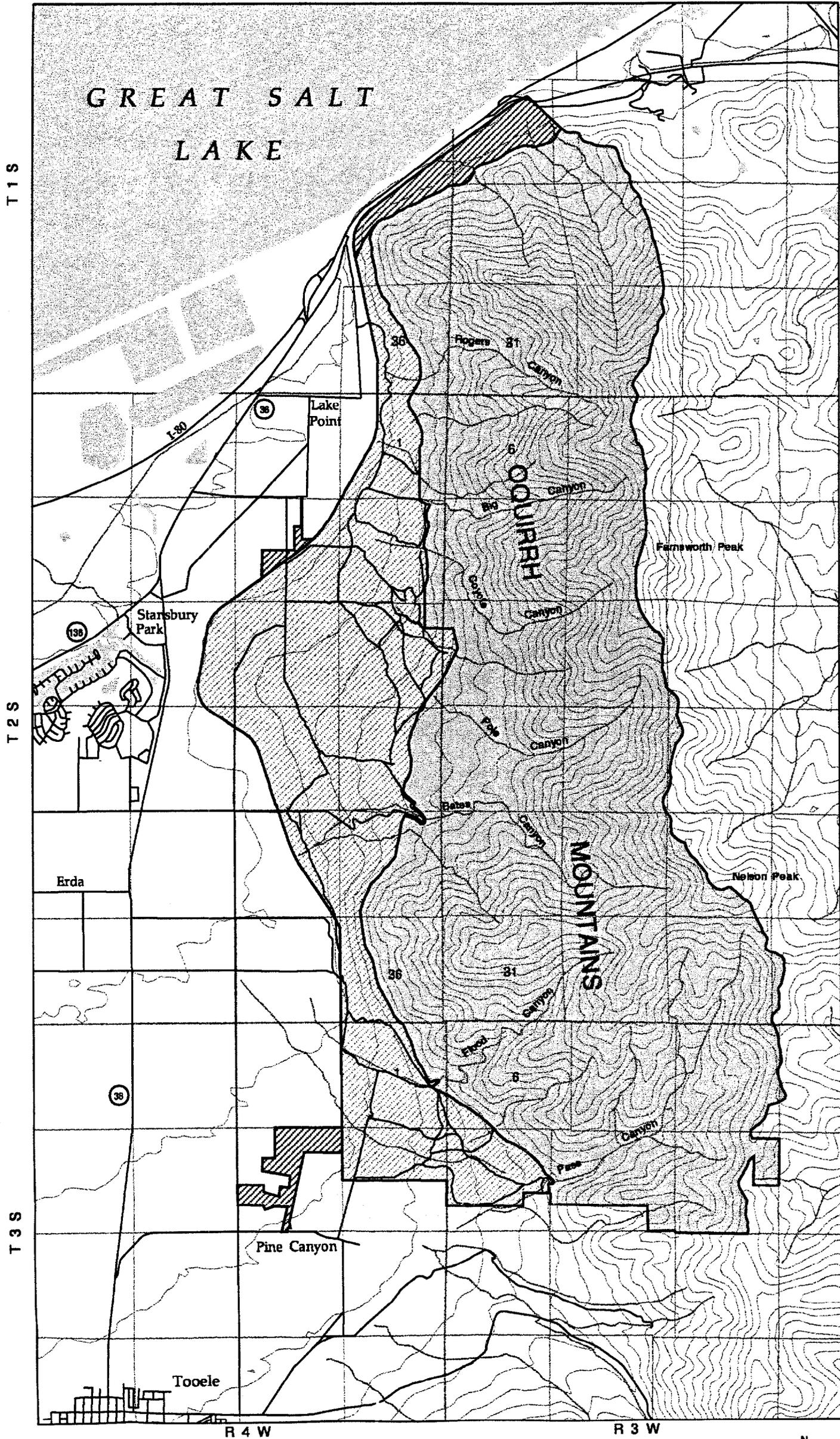
MAP 8 MINERAL LEASING CATEGORIES  
 Alternatives 2 and 3



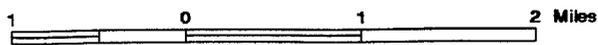
 Category 1  
 Category 2



MAP 9 VISUAL RESOURCE MANAGEMENT  
 Alternatives 2 and 3



-  VRM II
-  VRM III
-  VRM IV



SCALE 1:70,000

