

APPENDIX 1 ALLOTMENT DESCRIPTIONS

Grazing allotments are defined geographical areas (see Livestock Grazing Element, CDCA Plan 1980, (1999)). Forage for cattle and horses within the allotments is allocated as ephemeral (annual plants) or perennial (perennial grass or shrubs) or both ephemeral and perennial range type classifications because rangeland forage in the California desert can vary dramatically. The CDCA Plan prescribes the area and the sustainable amount of perennial forage by animal unit months (AUMs) for each perennial allotment (Table 6-Part B, CDCA Plan, 1980). Past and current grazing management is based on development and implementation of programs to attain resource objectives.

The 32,321-acre Pahrump Valley Allotment is located just west of the California and Nevada state line, east of the Nopah Mountain Range. Approximately 60 percent of the allotment is within designated wilderness and 31,338 acres of the allotment is within desert tortoise non-critical habitat (see Table 1 and Map 7). The season of cattle use is February 15th to May 1st. There is currently one inactive well in the northern portion of the allotment and very little cattle use occurs in this portion of the allotment. The majority of the cattle use the southern portion of the allotment adjacent to four earthen reservoirs.

The Valley Well Allotment is a very small allotment (520 acres) located approximately 7 miles south of Barstow, adjacent to State Highway 247. This small allotment has been grazed by the lessee's domestic horses 5 out of the last 10 years. This allotment is located outside critical habitat for the desert tortoise.

The Rattlesnake Canyon Allotment is located at the base of and within the Bighorn Mountain Range. The season for cattle use is year-long. The allotment is topographically divided into the desert pasture, Rattlesnake Canyon, and the mountain pasture. The allotment contains seven developed springs, four located in the desert pasture and the remaining three located in the mountain pasture. Cattle use is primarily seasonal, with most of the grazing use in the winter and spring occurs in the desert pasture while summer and fall grazing use occurs in the mountain pasture. Rattlesnake Canyon is primarily used to trail cattle between the desert and mountain pastures. The desert pasture has 12,800 acres of desert tortoise non-critical habitat, where desert tortoise densities are probably low. Rattlesnake Canyon within the allotment is a wide, five mile long canyon with steep walls and a rocky to sandy bottom. The canyon stretches from the desert floor and rises in elevation to over 5,000 feet. The lower portion of the Rattlesnake Canyon may support low densities of desert tortoises, however above 4,000 feet it is unlikely to support tortoises. No other listed species are known to be present in the canyon.

The Ord Mountain Allotment is located south of I-40, approximately 8 miles southeast of Barstow. Cattle graze the allotment all year-long and the allotment is 154,848 acres in

size of which 102,141 acres is in desert tortoise critical habitat and 34,047 acres is in desert tortoise non-critical habitat (see Table 1 and Map 6). The allotment contains seven developed springs and two wells on public land. Most of the grazing use on public land occurs in the western portion of the allotment where most of the developed water is located.

The Harper Lake Allotment is located 15 miles northwest of Barstow. Cattle use occurs all year-long. There is one well on public land. Approximately 65 percent of this allotment is within desert tortoise critical habitat and in the northern pasture while the remaining 35 percent of desert tortoise non-critical habitat is located in the southern pasture (see Table 3). Due to the lack of developed water, in the past, there has been a lack of water in the northern pasture and cattle have drifted off the allotment. The recent development of stock water on private land in the northern pasture has more evenly distributed grazing use. Until development of water in the northern pasture, past grazing use has been confined to the southern pasture.

The Cady Mountain Allotment is located between I-15 and I-40 in the western Mojave Desert and the allotment comprises 231,897 acres. The period for grazing is year-long. The Mojave River runs through the extreme northern portion of the allotment which contains extensive areas of riparian habitat. The allotment currently has two active and two inactive deep wells. The majority of grazing use occurs in the western and central portions of the allotment in association with the active wells, and in the Afton Canyon area. The allotment is within 160,104 acres of desert tortoise non-critical habitat.

The Cronese Lake Allotment is located approximately 30 miles northeast of Barstow and just north of I-15. The season of use is year-long. The allotment is comprised of 53,563 acres of public land and 11,558 acres of private land. Water is supplied by one well on public land. Approximately 55 percent of the allotment is within desert tortoise critical habitat.

The Round Mountain Allotment is located approximately 35 miles south of Barstow on the north slope of the San Bernardino Mountains. The allotment is comprised of 15,565 acres of public land and 2,525 acres of private land. The season of use is winter, December 1 through March 31. There is one developed water source and several undeveloped water sources. In 1999 a majority of the allotment was burned in the Willow Fire. After five growing seasons without cattle grazing the allotments perennial forage base has recovered. Cattle grazing is scheduled to resume in December 2004.