3/15/76

BREEN, YOUNG, WHITEHEAD & HOY
CHARTERED
ATTORNEYS AND COUNSELLORS AT LAW
232 COURT STREET
RENO, NEVADA 89501
AREA CODE 702 786-7600

F. R. BREEN
C. CLIFTON YOUNG
JERRY CARR WHITEHEAD
DAVID R. HOY
MILOS TERZICH
DAVID R. BELDING
JEFFREY K. RAHBECK

LAKE TAHOE OFFICE
PAGE BUILDING
ROUND HILL
P. O. BOX 2100
ZEPHYR COVE, NEVADA 89448
A.C. 702 588-6667
OR 882-6790

March 15, 1976

Robert D. Stitser, Esq.
755 Forest
Reno, Nevada 89502

Re: BLM Removal of Wild Free-Roaming Horses From Pyramid Reservation

Dear Bob:

In a recent telephone conference I informed you that the Bureau of Land Management has plans to remove wild free-roaming horses and burros from certain Tribe lands.

Enclosed please find a Bureau of Land Management planning guide regarding this matter. Please notice pages 19 and 20 particularly, and after you have conferred with Tribal authorities please inform me of your and their reaction to such proposal.

Sincerely yours,

BREEN, YOUNG, WHITEHEAD & HOY,
Chartered

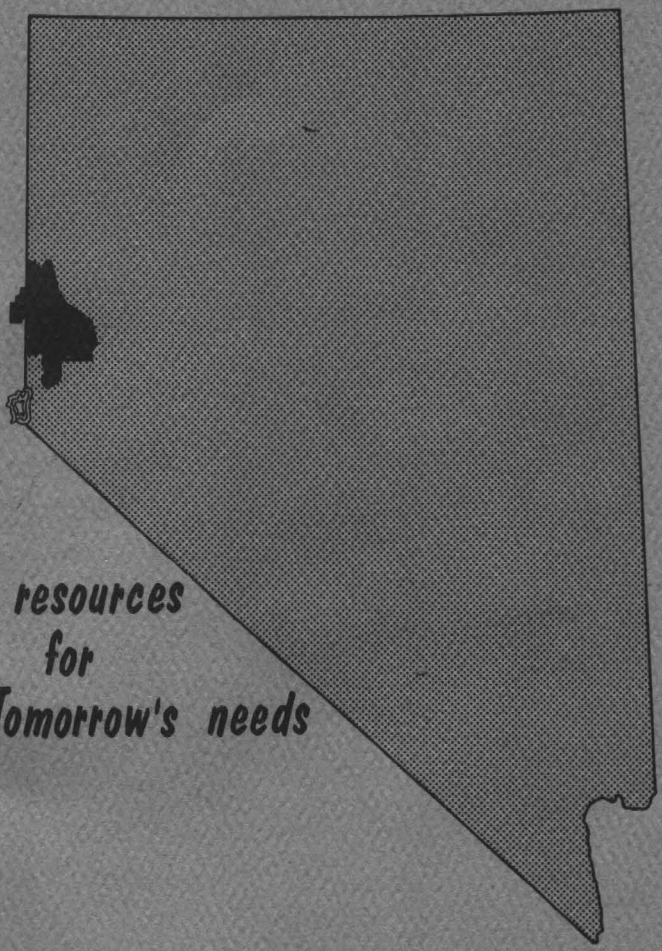
By David R. Belding

DRB/wc

Enclosure

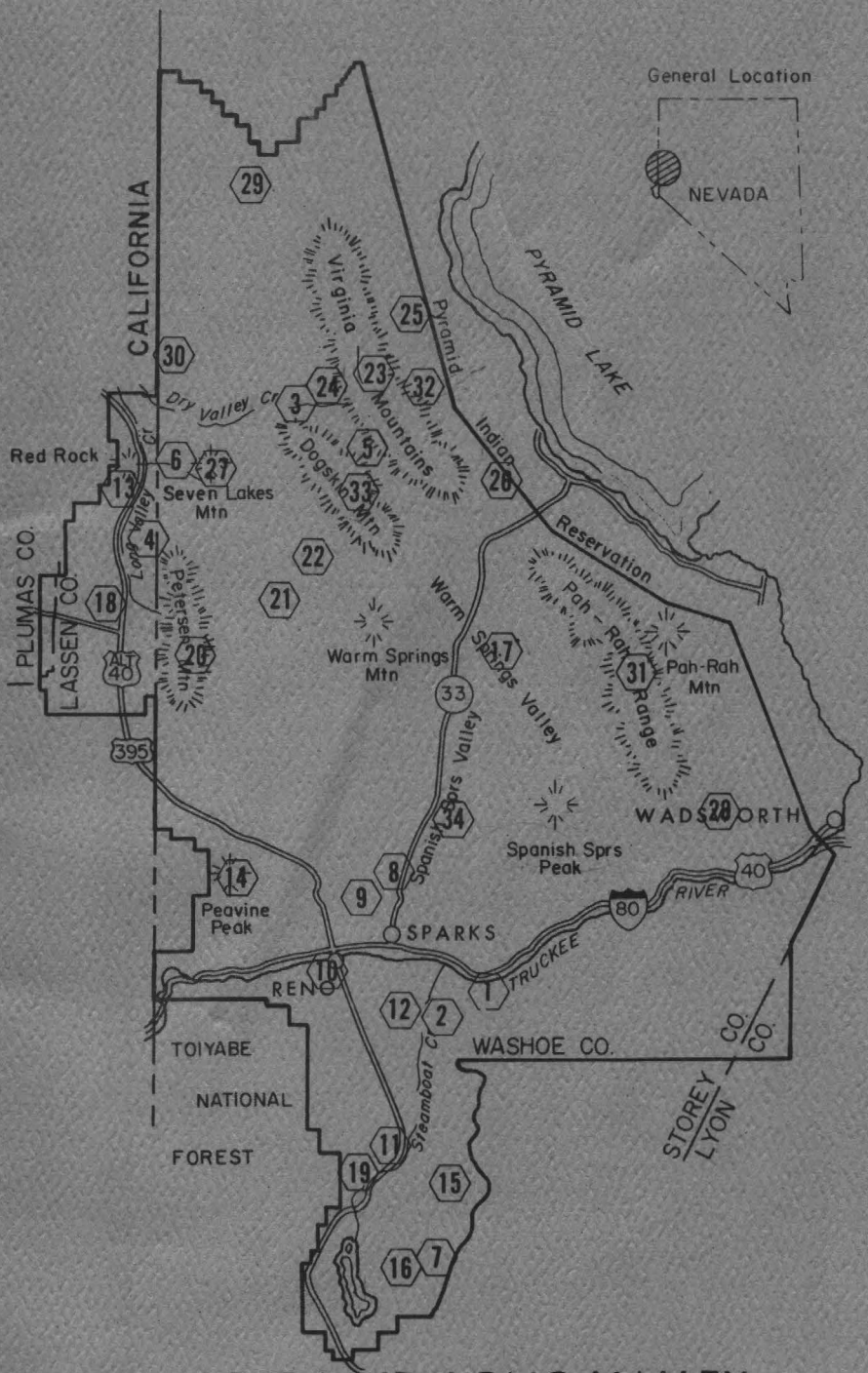
cc: Velma B. Johnston

PYRAMID–LONG VALLEY LAND USE GUIDES



Today's resources for Tomorrow's needs

CARSON CITY DISTRICT, NEVADA


General Location
NEVADA
CALIFORNIA
PYRAMID LAKE
Pyramid Lake Indian Reservation
Virginia Mountains
Dry Valley Cr
Red Rock
Long Valley Cr
Seven Lakes Mtn
Doogshm Mtn
Petersen Mtn
PLUMAS CO.
LASSEN CO.
Warm Springs Mtn
Warm Springs Valley
Pah-Rah Range
Pah-Rah Mtn
WADSWORTH
Spanish Sprs Valley
Spanish Sprs Peak
Peavine Peak
SPARKS
RENO
TRUCKEE RIVER
WASHOE CO.
TOIYABE NATIONAL FOREST
Steamboat Cr
STOREY CO.
LYON CO.
395
80
40
PYRAMID-LONG VALLEY PLANNING UNIT

AN OPEN LETTER TO THE PUBLIC

In Nevada, almost 68 per cent of the land area, about 48 million acres, is administered by the U.S. Bureau of Land Management.

The BLM realizes what it does with this huge land area is very important to the people of Nevada and citizens throughout the United States. Our decisions regarding land use not only have a great effect on the specific area involved, they also heavily influence land use on adjoining private, state, and other government-administered lands.

As district manager for the Carson City BLM district, my staff and I have responsibility for land use planning on more than 5.6 million acres in western Nevada and some adjoining parts of California.

To do this, we have divided our district into planning units. This pamphlet contains our land use decisions for the Pyramid Planning Unit in Storey, Lyon, and Washoe Counties, Nevada and the Long Valley Planning Unit in Lassen and Plumas Counties, California.

These decisions were reached after gathering all available data and the viewpoints of as many people with as many diverse interests as possible. This data, the viewpoints, plus the technical expertise of the BLM resource specialists were combined to formulate the land use decisions on the following pages.

Based on our current knowledge, we feel these decisions will guide us toward the most effective management of these lands. By design, these decisions are flexible to deal with new demands on the lands and new conditions; therefore, they will be updated and revised when necessary to keep the plans current and effective.

This pamphlet contains only the major and important land use decisions; those that are non-sensitive or routine were omitted for the sake of brevity. If you wish to examine the entire plan and all the information gathered, these documents are available to the public at the Carson City District Office, Monday through Friday, from 7:30 a.m. to 4:15 p.m.

Remember, these national resource lands are your heritage and we need your help in deciding the best use of them. My staff and I thank everyone who assisted in this effort and we look forward to working with you again in formulating similar plans for other parts of the Carson City District.

Sincerely,

L. Paul Applegate

L. Paul Applegate
District Manager, Carson City

Background

Two planning units--Pyramid (Nevada) and Long Valley (California)--comprise the planning area. It covers about 985,000 acres within the boundaries of the Carson City BLM District. Of the total, about 394,000 are national resource lands and the rest are in private or other governmental ownership.

The Pyramid-Long Valley Planning Unit encompasses parts of five counties: Plumas and Lassen in California; Washoe, Storey, and Lyon in Nevada. It is partially bordered on the east by the Pyramid Lake Indian Reservation and on the west by the Toiyabe and Plumas National Forest. It includes the Reno-Sparks metropolitan area.

The annual precipitation in the planning unit varies from 5 to 15 inches, depending on the elevation. The average annual precipitation is close to 10 inches. Temperatures vary from slightly in excess of 100 degrees Fahrenheit in summer months to minus 20 degrees Fahrenheit in the winter.

In the mountainous areas, soils generally are shallow and unsuitable for agriculture. The valley bottoms have soils that usually are saline (salty) and, added to the semi-arid conditions, this renders them generally unsuitable for agriculture.

In the valley bottoms, the vegetation is typical of the desert shrub type which includes greasewood, shadscale, big sagebrush, rabbitbrush, saltgrass, and cheatgrass as the dominant species. In the lower foothills the vegetation is dominated by big sagebrush, rabbitbrush, cheatgrass, and needlegrass. The higher areas, about 7000 feet, generally support such species as big sagebrush, low sagebrush, bitterbrush, and juniper.

The year-round streams are the Truckee River (1)*, Steamboat Creek (2), and portions of Dry Creek (3), Long Valley (4), Winnemucca Valley (5), and Red Rock Valley Creeks (6). There are numerous springs, wells and reservoirs within the area.

This is an extremely high fire occurrence area, both from lightning, and man-caused fires. Almost one-half of the area has been classified as having an extreme rate of spread.

*All numerals in text refer to map locations on page 21

LANDS

General Information

There are approximately 394,000 acres of national resource lands in the Pyramid-Long Valley Unit. About 70 per cent of these lands have been classified for retention and multiple use management under the authority of the Classification and Multiple Use Act of September 19, 1964.

This classification prevents these lands from being removed from Federal management by the agricultural land laws (homesteading, desert land entries) or public sales.

Of the remaining national resource lands in the unit, about 2300 acres have been classified as suitable for recreation or public purposes such as school sites and public parks.

Urban and suburban pressure from the Reno-Sparks area is concentrated in the level valleys where few national resource lands exist. Availability of water appears to be the only limiting physical factor to development and its quality and quantity in this area is not fully known.

Existing rights-of-way for utilities presently follow major roads.

Land Management Objectives

1. Provide national resource lands for residential, commercial, industrial, recreational, and public purposes.

2. Provide national resource lands for power transmission, pipeline, telephone lines, railroad, and highway rights-of-way and for mountain-top communication sites.

Land Management Decisions

1. Sell or lease scattered tracts of national resource lands (about 10,000 acres) within urban influence areas to satisfy growth and development requirements.

2. Where feasible, in order to minimize environmental damage, confine new rights-of-way to existing corridors, require underground installation of utilities, or determine new routings.

3. Confine new communication facilities to mountain-top sites currently in use for such activity to minimize environmental damage. Consider applications for new sites only under extenuating conditions on a case by case basis.

MINERALS

General Information

A wide variety of both metallic and nonmetallic mineral deposits are present in the planning unit. These include gold, silver, copper, uranium, mercury, lead, zinc, antimony, arsenic, clay, pumice, building stone, decomposed granite, sand, and gravel.

Based on the type of geologic formations in the unit, it is estimated about 60 per cent of the area has a potential for the occurrence of either metallic or nonmetallic deposits of current economic value or of economic value in the reasonably foreseeable future.

The U.S. Geologic Survey has identified two known geothermal resource areas within the planning unit and has designated other portions as being prospectively valuable for geothermal resources.

It is anticipated the level of metallic mineral exploration in the Pyramid-Long Valley Planning Unit will increase moderately with time, the nonmetallic mineral activities will increase greatly with time, and exploration for geothermal energy resources will be on a high level for at least the next few years.

Mineral Management Objectives

1. Encourage development of mineral resources to meet local, regional, and national needs.

2. Make Federal mineral resources available for use to meet local needs.

Mineral Management Decisions

1. Encourage mineral exploration and development by leaving all national resource lands (except those already closed to mineral entry)

open to mining, mineral leasing, and prospecting.

2. Initiate geologic investigation before sale or lease of national resource lands in the vicinity of urban areas. If these lands are found to contain suitable minerals (sand and gravel, decomposed granite, pumice) the tracts will be retained for public ownership to reserve them for future use.

3. Retain Jumbo (7), Sun Valley (8), Panther Valley (9), West 7th Street (10), and Mount Rose community pits (11) and Airway (12) and Red Rock (13) common use areas until materials are exhausted. A community pit is usually smaller than 40 acres and is mainly used for extracting sand and gravel. A common use area usually covers a much larger area and is mainly used for extracting building stone. These areas will be rehabilitated as each pit is exhausted.

TIMBER (WOODLAND)

General Information

There are two types of timber stands within the Pyramid-Long Valley Planning Unit: scattered, isolated stands of white fir and Jeffrey pine; and juniper woodland types of very scattered, stunted trees consisting of a very low volume of cord wood per acre.

Timber Management Objectives

1. Adequately manage stands of juniper in the planning unit.

2. Maintain in their present state the planning unit's limited stands of white fir and Jeffrey pine.

Timber Management Decisions

1. Allow cutting of dead juniper for non-commercial firewood use.

2. Prohibit cutting of live juniper for fence posts or any other uses. The scattered stands of juniper provide wildlife habitat cover and contribute aesthetically to an otherwise treeless area.

3. Prohibit any harvest of the unit's white fir and Jeffrey pine. These botanically unique stands of trees should be retained for possible use as future study areas.

WATERSHED

General Information

The national resource lands in the Pyramid-Long Valley Planning Unit have been determined to be in the following erosion condition:

Acres	Condition Class	Description
20,504	Stable	Little or no erosion
298,818	Slight	Minor soil movement
68,400	Moderate	Some gullying and soil movement
2,170	Critical	A lot of gullying and soil movement
389,892		

The erosion trend is static on about 96 per cent of this acreage. Erosion is decreasing on about 3 per cent and increasing on about 1 per cent.

The Peavine (14) Watershed has been closed to grazing and mining to protect its vegetation and soil. The area receives substantial off-road vehicle use, which has destroyed vegetation, compacted soils, and generally has increased runoff and sedimentation.

Flood and sediment damage problems or potential problems were identified in six areas: Peavine (14), Sun Valley (8), Baily Canyon (15), Jumbo Canyon (16), Warm Springs Valley (17), and Long Valley (18) watersheds. In the most seriously affected area, Sun Valley (8), BLM has relatively little land and most of that will pass into other ownership in the near future.

Watershed Management Objectives

1. Minimize erosion on all national resource lands in the planning unit to the extent practicable.

2. Control and prevent flood damage in the Peavine (14) Watershed.

Watershed Management Decisions

1. Stabilize soils or reduce erosion on 389,892 acres of national resource lands by means of intensive livestock management practices to improve the density, composition, and vigor of the vegetal cover.

2. Confine off-road vehicle use to designated roads and trails on the Peavine (14) Watershed.

LIVESTOCK GRAZING

General Information

Livestock grazing occurs on 385,190 acres of national resource lands or about 97 per cent of the BLM administered lands within the Pyramid-Long Valley Planning Unit. Grazing is divided into 26 designated livestock use areas or allotments, utilized by 35 ranches.

Two allotments are presently under allotment management plans, or intensive grazing management plans, where grazing forage is being improved as the result of additional fencing, water developments, and intensified grazing systems. Fifteen allotments of the remaining 24 have high potential for forage improvement under the grazing management system.

Livestock Grazing Management Objectives

1. Initiate allotment management plans to ensure proper livestock management where grazing is a significant use of the national resource lands.

2. Continue implementation on existing allotment management plans to conform to multiple use objectives.

3. Continue present grazing management on allotments where BLM administered acreage is too small to justify implementation of allotment management plans.

Livestock Grazing Management Decisions

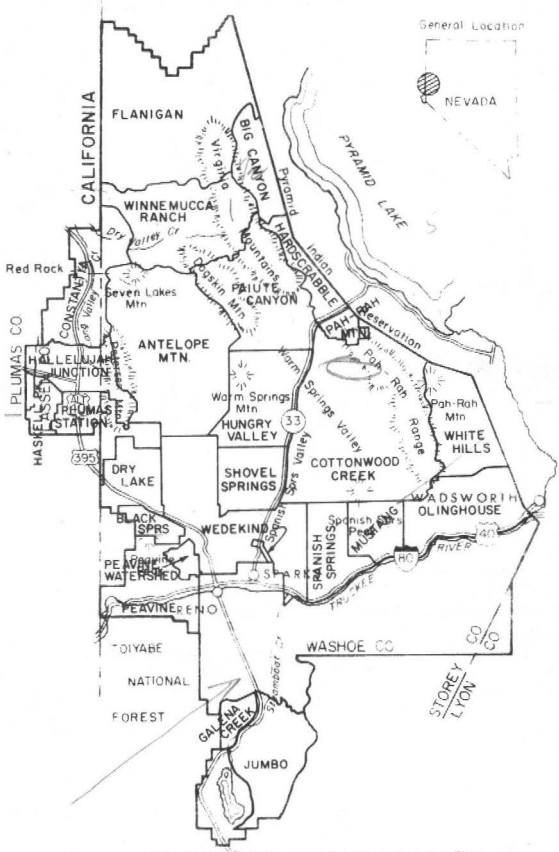
1. Develop, implement, and maintain allotment management plans on 15 grazing allotments (289,642 acres) in this priority (for location, see Grazing Allotment map, page 13.): Hallelujah Junction, Plumas Station, Constantia, Flanigan, Winnemucca Ranch, Jumbo, Paiute Canyon, Shovel Springs, Peavine Watershed, Hungry Valley, Hardscrabble Canyon, White Hills, Olinghouse, Mustang, and Spanish Springs.

These plans will be developed in conjunction with an environmental impact statement beginning in 1979.

2. Continue implementation of the Big Canyon allotment management plan. The rest and deferred rotation systems established in this plan will improve the quantity and quality of forage available for livestock.

3. Grazing on the Antelope allotment will be adjusted to increase forage production and provide proper management of the critical deer winter ranges near Granite Peak (19) and in the Sand Hills (20). Bitterbrush will be included as a key species.

4. Continue present spring and summer grazing management on these nine allotments containing 22,755 acres: Black Springs, Cottonwood Creek, Dry Lake, Galena Creek, Haskell Peak, Pah Rah Mountain, Peavine, Pole Line, and Wedekind. National resource lands within these allotments are too small, fragmented, or isolated to justify the expense of implementing allotment management plans. Some of these lands are designated for disposal or transfer of ownership.



PYRAMID-LONG VALLEY
GRAZING ALLOTMENTS

WILDLIFE

General Information

The Pyramid-Long Valley Planning Unit provides key habitat for a large segment of the Lassen-Washoe interstate deer herd, as well as some resident deer. Habitat varies from good to poor. Management or improvement of the habitat is complicated by the pattern of scattered land ownership.

Much good chukar partridge and dove habitat continues to be created as a byproduct of wildfire in the unit. Water development in these areas is needed. Small static herds of antelope are widely scattered. Antelope habitat is poor, but has considerable potential.

The mountain ranges in this planning unit were historic habitat for the California bighorn sheep, a threatened species. There are no other known threatened species on national resource lands in the planning unit.

Cold water sport fisheries in the Pyramid Unit includes the Truckee River and several small streams. Washoe Lake is a warm water sport fishery in the southern portion of the unit. Except for about one-half mile of BLM administered land along Galena Creek (21), no other BLM land exists along these fisheries. There are no fisheries in the Long Valley Planning Unit.

Numerous non-game birds, mammals, fish, amphibians and reptiles inhabit the Pyramid-Long Valley Planning Unit.

Wildlife Management Objectives

1. Develop and implement habitat management plans for terrestrial wildlife habitat areas in the planning unit.

2. Improve management of wildlife habitat to insure perpetuation of the deer herds and hunting opportunities.

3. Manage all habitats for their optimum condition, consistent with other resources and land uses.

4. Encourage and coordinate re-introduction of California bighorn sheep in areas of their historic habitat.

Wildlife Management Decisions

1. Complete intensive inventory of conditions and potential in identified wildlife habitat areas. Point out key or crucial habitats, conflicts with other uses, and potential improvements.

2. Evaluate and describe all mapped and unmapped water sources. Knowledge of the nature, amount, availability, and need for development of water sources is essential to habitat management planning.

3. Stop habitat-related decline in population and productivity of the interstate Lassen-Washoe deer herd by restoring 43,000 acres of burned or depleted range in the Petersen Mountain (22), Long Valley (18), and Granite Peak (19) areas. Repeat rehabilitation efforts if necessary until the area is completely restored. Protect remaining tree cover from wildfire.

4. Retain in public ownership crucial winter deer ranges on national resource lands in the Petersen Mountain (22), Long Valley (18), and Granite Peak (19) areas.

5. Acquire identified private lands in Petersen Mountain (22), Long Valley (18), and Granite Peak (19) areas to facilitate wildlife management and land rehabilitation as the opportunity presents itself.

6. Adjust grazing use on the Petersen Mountain (22) area grazing

allotments, where necessary, emphasizing the importance of bitterbrush as a key forage species on all deer winter ranges.

7. Adjust grazing use of the Antelope Mountain allotment considering bitterbrush as a key species. Specifically, provide more rest for bitterbrush, and reserve forage for mule deer in the Sand Hills (20), a crucial deer area.

8. Retain in public ownership the lands in the Peavine (14) and Jumbo (7) areas. Improve wildlife habitat on these lands.

9. Offer to Nevada Division of Fish and Game the national resource lands in the Virginia Mountains (23) north of Mullen Pass as possible sites for re-introduction of California bighorn sheep.

10. Acquire access to the Virginia Mountains for hunter vehicle use on existing roads through or around Black (24), Big (25), and Hardscrabble Canyons (26).

RECREATION

General Information

Many recreational uses have been identified and evaluated within the Pyramid-Long Valley Planning Unit. These uses include fishing, hunting, snow activities, boating, water skiing, botanical and zoological sightseeing, off-road vehicle use, and primitive values.

General outdoor recreational use of this area is considered high and visitor use will continue to show an increase. Rising prices and shorter gasoline supplies will place an even higher demand on those recreational resource values within a short driving distance of the Reno-Sparks area.

Recreation Management Objectives

1. Provide for the recreational management of the Virginia Mountains (23), Seven Lakes Mountain (27), and Petersen Mountain (22) areas.

2. Retain in public ownership all national resource lands within identified recreational resource areas.

3. Dispose of several parcels of national resource lands to local governments for recreational use.

4. Consolidate land ownership patterns to enhance the public's recreational use of the national resource lands.

5. Wherever possible, enhance the identified scenic values of the national resource lands within the planning unit.

6. Provide on-site interpretation or explanation of identified historical sites.

7. Provide for the establishment and management of an off-road vehicle use area northeast of Olinghouse (28).

Recreation Management Decisions

1. Designate as "recreation lands" a total of 76,000 acres of national resource lands in three areas: Virginia Mountains (23), approximately 50,000 acres; Seven Lakes Mountain (27), approximately 6,000 acres; and Petersen Mountain (22), approximately 20,000 acres.

2. Retain in public ownership all national resource lands not classified for multiple use management which have identified recreational resource values.

3. Encourage local governments to acquire and manage for recreational purposes isolated small tracts of national resource lands. These lands meet the criteria for disposal to local governments under the Recreation and Public Purposes Act.

4. Utilize the checkerboarded national resource lands (alternate, isolated tracts of public lands surrounded by private lands) of the western portion of the planning unit as a land pool to be used for acquiring, by exchange, selected private lands containing recreational resource values.

5. Provide appropriate interpretive services on the several historical sites on public land.

6. Establish an off-road vehicle use area north of Olinghouse.

7. Clean-up and remove litter from identified dump areas on national resource lands.

WILD HORSES AND BURROS

General Information

Inventories of wild horses completed in August 1972 showed that 230 horses are in the Pyramid-Long Valley Planning Unit. The 230 horses are grouped into about 32 different bands covering six general use areas: Flanigan (29), Fort Sage Mountain (30), Granite Peak (19), Pah Rah Mountains (31), Tule Ridge (32), and Dogskin Mountain (33).

Grasses are the major forage species available for the horses and a major part of their diet. They also are known to feed on the big and low sagebrush.

Wild Horse Management Objectives

1. Manage and protect the wild, free-roaming horses and burros as a resource on the national resource lands in the planning unit and provide adequate forage for their maintenance.

Wild Horse Management Decisions

1. Establish an intensive wild horse management area in the Flanigan area. Maintain in that area the current population of about 100 horses. This area is considered to be particularly suitable for intensive wild horse use because it has few developments that would restrict their movements and receives little wildlife use.

2. Conduct studies to determine the biological requirements of this herd. Based on these studies, determine the optimum number of wild horses that can be maintained in this intensive management area and adjust numbers accordingly.

3. Remove wild horses from other identified use areas for the following reasons:

(a) The wild horses in the Fort Sage Mountain and Granite Peak areas will be removed because of the intense use these areas receive from the Lassen-Washoe interstate deer herd, whose numbers are declining.

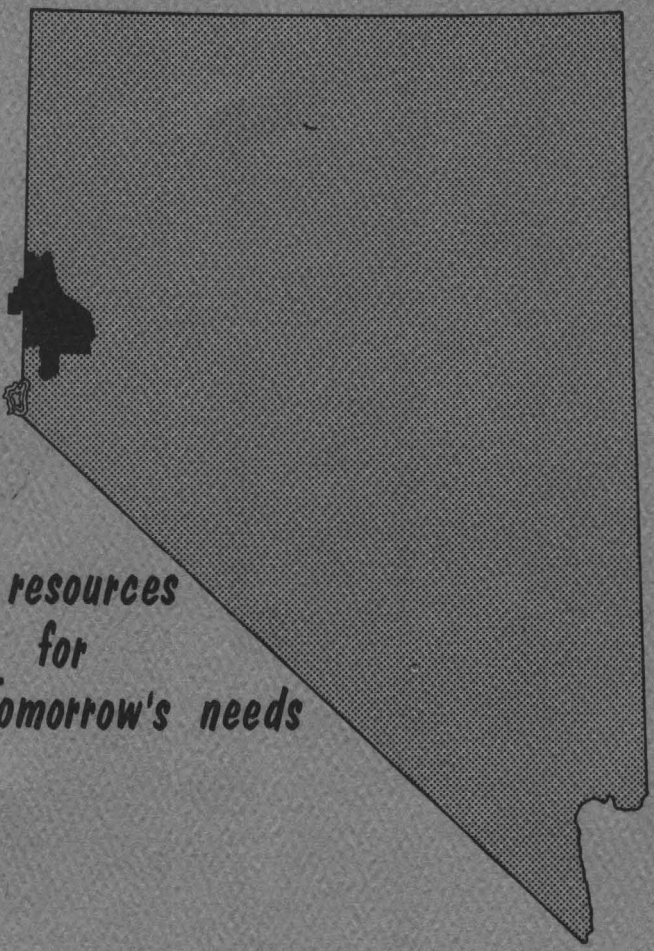
(b) The wild horses in the Pah Rah Mountains will be removed because of the fragmented land patterns of national resource lands and because of the proposed housing development in the adjacent Spanish Springs Valley (34).

(c) The wild horses in the Tule Ridge and Dogskin Mountain areas will be removed because their small number (about 13) cannot be adequately managed at their present locations.

4. Relocate as many animals from these areas as possible into the Flanigan wild horse management area. When this becomes impossible because of overpopulation of the Flanigan herd, give away as many animals as possible to interested parties on a custodial basis for private maintenance. If suitable homes cannot be found for all, the remaining animals should be destroyed humanely.

CARSON CITY DISTRICT OFFICE
BUREAU OF LAND MANAGEMENT
801 N. PLAZA ST.
CARSON CITY, NV. 89701

PYRAMID-LONG VALLEY
LAND USE GUIDES



Today's resources
for
Tomorrow's needs

CARSON CITY DISTRICT,
NEVADA