

3/9/80

memorandum

DATE

REPLY TO
ATTN OF: Supervisory Range Con/Wild Horse Specialist

SUBJECT: Wild Horse Inventory Currie Planning Unit

TO: The files

On March 9th, 10th, and 11th I flew the Currie planning unit wild horse ^{Areas} ~~areas~~ to make a count on wild free roaming horses. I used an El Aero helicopter and the pilot was Jim Hicks.

I started on the Maverick Range at 10:00 on the 9th of March and completed the count of the Goshutes the 11th of March. The numbers and locations counted are shown on the attached map and are listed as follows:

Maverick Herd area	38 horses
Medicine Herd area	163 horses
Butte Valley-W. Buttes Herd area	43 horses
Cherry Creek Herd area	64 horses
Antelope { Antelope-Kingsley-Ferber Flat herd area	39 horses
Dolly Varden-Currie Hills herd area	125 horses
Goshute Herd area	<u>120 horses</u>
	592 horses

This count is interesting in several respects as it shows no total increase in horses. A comparison of counts by specific areas and year counted is as follows:

herd area	<u>1981 Count</u>	<u>1980 Count</u>	<u>1978 Count</u>
Maverick	38 horses	76 horses	46 horses
Medicine	163 horses	139 horses	66 horses
Butte Valley-W. Buttes	43 horses	no count made	no count made
Cherry Creek	64 horses	71 horses	74 horses
Antelope { Antelope-Kingsley-Ferber Flat	39 horses	85 horses	224 horses
Dolly Varden-Currie Hills	125 horses	106 horses	225 horses
Goshutes	<u>120 horses</u>	<u>no count made</u>	<u>129 horses</u>
Total	592 horses	477 horses	764 horses

Since the Elko-White Pine County line is not fenced there is considerable back and forth movement of horses across the line. In order to get a more accurate depiction of horse numbers it would be necessary for the Elko and Ely District to count the total area at the same time.

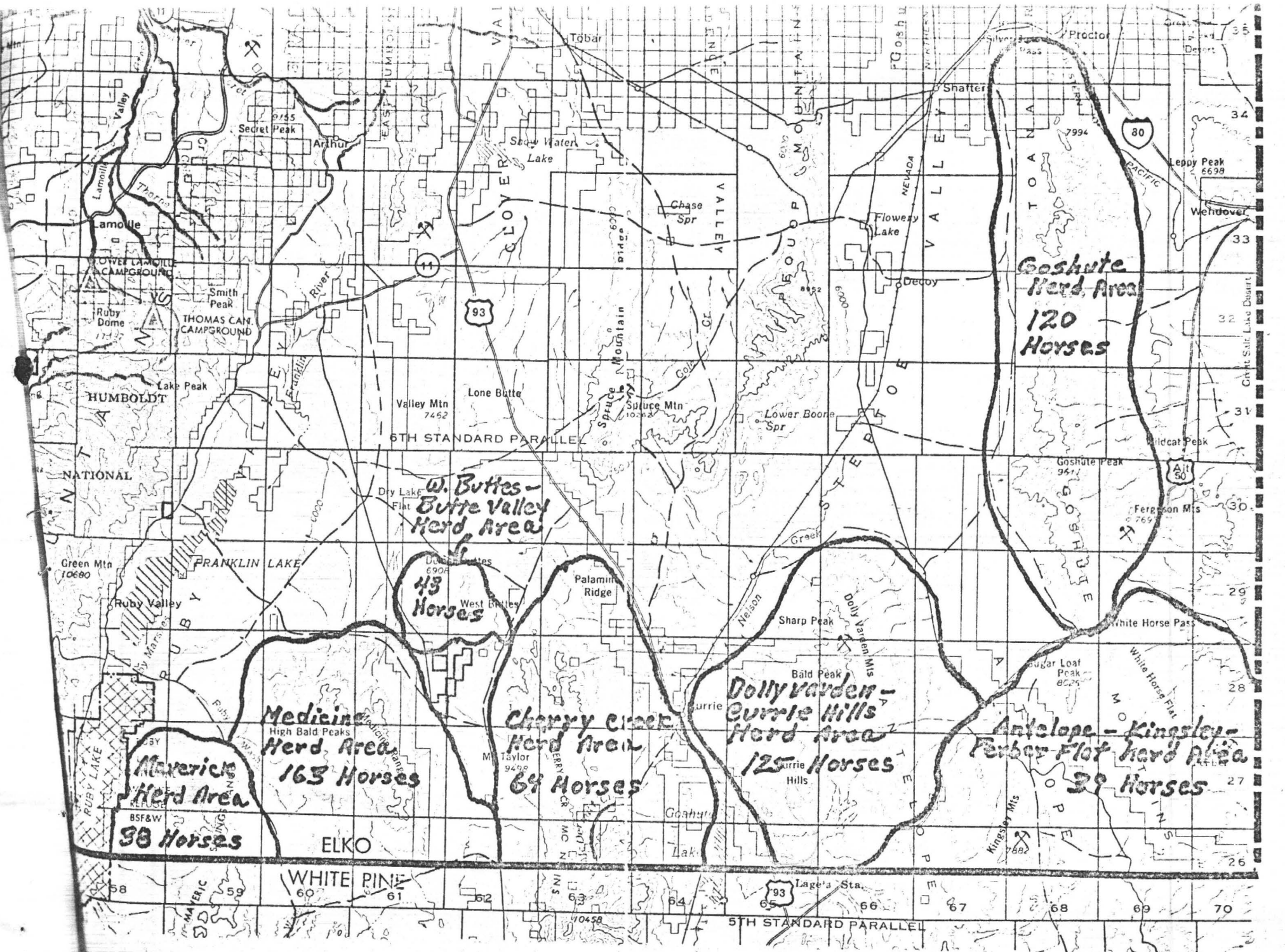


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As can be seen from the above table there is considerable variation of horse numbers between herd areas, with some areas higher and some areas lower in numbers. This can be attributed to the back and forth movement of horses between areas and should not be viewed as increases or decreases of horse numbers.

None of the allotments are fenced and overall numbers have not changed appreciably for the total area counted. The exception to this is the 1978 count which shows greater numbers for the total area. This is explained by the fact that there have been two horse roundups (Elko-Ely, Chin Creek-Ferber Flat 1980 and Ely-Elko, Buck and Bald Mountain 1980) which has changed populations.

Bruce E. Fortwood



**Goshute
Herd Area
120
Horses**

**W. Buttes -
Butte Valley
Herd Area**

**43
Horses**

**Dolly Varden -
Currie Hills
Herd Area
125
Horses**

**Cherry Creek
Herd Area
64
Horses**

**Antelope - Kingsley -
Perber Flat Herd Area
29
Horses**

**Medicine
Herd Area
163
Horses**

**Maverick
Herd Area
38
Horses**

WHITE PINE

5TH STANDARD PARALLEL

HUMBOLDT

NATIONAL

RUBY VALLEY

BSF&W

ELKO

93

80

93

6TH STANDARD PARALLEL

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