



United States Department of the Interior

BUREAU OF LAND MANAGEMENT
Ely District Office
Star Route 5, Box 1
Ely, Nevada 89301

G 6-18-82
IN REPLY REFER TO

4700
(N-043)

June 18, 1982

Wild Horse Organized Assistance
P. O. Box 555
Reno, Nevada 89504

Dear Dawn:

Enclosed is a copy of the Draft Capture Plan and Amendment to the Environmental Assessment No. NV-040-7-17.

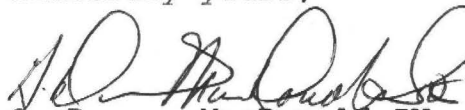
We are requesting your review and comments on the proposed action to remove 100-150 excess wild horses from the Monte Cristo Wild Horse Herd Management Area, in accordance with the Management Plan approved in 1977.

You probably have a copy of the Management Plan and Environmental Assessment on file. If you desire a copy of either or both please contact this office.

Your comments should be received no later than Aug. 19, 1982 (30 days) for consideration in this proposed action. If you have any questions or require additional information please contact:

Bureau of Land Management
Star Route 5, Box 1
Ely, Nevada 89301

Sincerely yours,


G. Duncan Macdonald IV
Acting District Manager

Enclosures:

- (1) Draft Capture Plan
- (2) Amendment

MONTE CRISTO WILD HORSE HERD AREA MANAGEMENT PLAN

Preface

This amendment analyzes the impacts associated with a proposed wild horse gathering in the Monte Cristo Wild Horse Herd Area. This analysis merely supplements the detailed E.A. which was prepared on the Monte Cristo Wild Horse Herd Area Management Plan (EA NV-040-7-17) and the approved management plan which were prepared jointly by the Bureau of Land Management and U. S. Forest Service.

Information included here will update or revise this 1977 assessment and the management plan. Consequently for full understanding the reader should obtain a copy of the 1977 assessment and the Monte Cristo Wild Horse Management Plan.

I. Description of the Proposed Action and Alternatives

A. Background

Background information is discussed in the 1977 EA and the management plan. Additional information will be added for this year, to update the information.

The U. S. Forest Service and the Bureau of Land Management conducted a gathering in January 1979 to maintain the horse population at levels arrived at in the Monte Cristo Wild Horse Management Plan. A total of 96 horses were removed at that time, which left a population of approximately 160.

The area was inventoried again in September 1981 and 206 horses were counted. The total estimated number is 270 horses.

Description of Proposed Action

The proposed action is to gather a sufficient number of wild horses from throughout the Monte Cristo Herd Use Area to leave between 72 and 96 head in compliance with the Herd Management Plan.

The Herd Management Plan states, wild horse numbers are to be maintained at an average of 96 head. Total numbers would not be allowed to increase above 120 head or decrease below 72 head.

A pre-gathering inventory will be conducted to determine the actual number to be removed and determine specific location for trap sites.

Gathering operations may be conducted over an 18 month period, whenever funding becomes available. Also it may be necessary to gather during two or three time periods to be more selective in reducing the herd to the management level. (See attached stipulations).

All other information discussed in EA NV-040-7-17 and the Monte Cristo Wild Horse Management Plan is considered to be adequate for this action since the affected environment is the same and no changes in impacts are anticipated.

Persons, Groups and Government Agencies Consulted

American Horse Protection Association
1312 - 18th St. NW
Washington D.C. 20036

American Humane Association
9725 E. Hampden
Denver, Colorado 80231

U. S. Humane Society
2100 L Street, NW
Washington D.C. 20037

Animal Protection Institute
P. O. Box 22505
Sacramento, California 95822

Gardner Ranches, Inc.
c/o Tonopah Stage
Ely, Nevada 89301

Mae K. Bradshaw
Duckwater, Nevada 89314

Halstead-Forsgren Ranches, Inc.
Duckwater, Nevada 89314

Adellie, Gailen & John Manzonie
c/o Tonopah Stage
Ely, Nevada 89301

Thomas Rosevear
P. O. Box 938
Ely, Nevada 89301

Georgette E. Jessen
Route 1 Box 37
Ely, Nevada 89301

International Society for the Protection
of Wild Horses and Burros
11790 Deodar
Reno, Nevada 89506

Funds for Animals
7167 South 2000 East
Salt Lake City, Utah 84121

Sierra Club
c/o Rose Strickland
Public Lands Committee of the Toiyabe Chapter
of the Sierra Club
1685 Kings Row
Reno, Nevada 89503

Nevada Wildlife Federation
P. O. Box 8022
Reno, Nevada 89507

Nevada Humane Society
P. O. Box KIND
Sparks, Nevada 89431

National Mustang Association
P. O. Box 403
St. George, Utah 84121

National Wild Horse Association
P. O. Box 12188
Las Vegas, Nevada 89112

Nevada Farm Bureau Federation
1300 Marietta Way
Sparks, Nevada 89431

White Pine Co. Commissioners
White Pine County Court House
Court House Plaza
Ely, Nevada 89301

United Dressed Beef
Helds Quarter Circle
Eureka, Nevada 89316

Valiant Farms
P. O. Box 38
Eureka, Nevada 89316

Stephen Wright
Ruby Valley, Nevada 89833

Nevada Department of Wildlife
Region II
1375 Mountain City Highway
Elko, Nevada 89801

State Clearinghouse
State Planning Coordination
Capitol Complex
Carson City, Nevada 89701

Wild Horse Organized Assistance
P. O. Box 555
Reno, Nevada 89504

Save the Mustang
P. O. Box 13
Rockwood, Pennsylvania 15557

Tina Nappe
3340 Berthond
Reno, Nevada 89503

Nevada Cattlemen's Association
419 Railroad Street
Elko, Nevada 89503

Rice Livestock Company
P. O. Box 1838
Elko, Nevada 89801

Robert Dickenson
Moorman Ranch
1590 Webster Way
Reno, Nevada 89502

Nevada Department of Wildlife
Dale Elliott
Box 178
Eureka, Nevada 89316

STIPULATIONS

1. Under the provisions of 43 CFR 4740.4, the use of the helicopter shall be regulated to the extent that:
 - (a) The helicopter shall be used in such a manner that bands or herds will tend to remain together.
 - (b) The rate of movement shall not exceed limitations set by the COAR and/or Project Inspector who shall consider terrain, weather, distance to be traveled and condition of animals. The contractor shall provide the helicopter/pilot for the COAR and/or Project Inspector to perform an aerial reconnaissance prior to capture at each trap site to set these limitations. (Not to exceed 5 hours flight time).
 - (c) The COAR/Project Inspector shall have the option at any time to ride in the helicopter to monitor the gathering.
 - (d) The contractor shall provide the COAR/PI five hours helicopter time for a post gathering inventory.

2. All motorized equipment employed in the transportation of captured horses shall, under the provisions of 43 CFR 4740.4(b), be subject to the following reservations and/or restrictions:
 - (a) All such transportation shall be in compliance with appropriate State and Federal laws and regulations applicable to the humane transportation of horses.
 - (b) Vehicles shall be in good repair, of adequate rated capacity, and carefully operated so as to insure that captured animals are transported without undue risk or injury.
 - (c) Vehicles shall be inspected and approved by the COAR/Project Inspector prior to award of the contract or at the prework conference.
 - (d) Where required by the COAR and/or Project Inspector, animals shall be sorted as to age, size, temperament, sex, and condition when transporting them so as to minimize, to the extent possible, injury due to fighting and trampling.
 - (e) Trailers (including gooseneck or bumper pull) or other suitable equipment as approved by the COAR/Project Inspector may be used to transport horses from the traps to the temporary holding facility. Bob-tail trucks, tractor pulled single deck trailers or double deck trailers with a minimum height of 13.6 feet will be permitted for transportation of captured horses to the Nevada Distribution Center, Palomino Valley (Reno). Trailer 30 feet in length will be required to have two sections (one partition) and trailers 40 feet or longer will have three sections (2 partitions).

- (f) The COAR and/or Project Inspector shall consider the condition of the animals, weather conditions, type of vehicles, and distance to be transported when planning for the shipment of captured animals.
3. All trapping of horses shall be subject to the following reservations/ restrictions:
- (a) All trapping attempted under this contract shall be accomplished utilizing a helicopter to herd the wild horses into the traps. Wing riders may be used as necessary. Roping will be done only when necessary as determined by the COAR and/or Project Inspector. Under no circumstances will horses be tied down for more than one hour.
 - (b) All materials and labor to build, repair, and remove the traps and holding corrals will be provided by the contractor.
 - (c) All traps and holding corrals will be located on BLM or Forest Service land and the locations will be approved by the COAR and/or Project Inspector prior to construction.
 - (d) The central holding corral will be located at a location agreed upon by COAR and contractor. Panels and other necessary equipment will be furnished by the contractor.
 - (e) All trap wings and holding corrals will be constructed to handle wild horses safely and humanely. Trap wings and holding corrals will be constructed with portable panels, unless otherwise approved by COAR/PI, the top rail of the trap will not be less than 72 inches high, and the bottom rail of which will not be more than 12 inches from the ground level. Holding corrals will not be less than 96 inches high and the bottom rail of which will not be more than 12 inches from the ground level. Traps and holding corrals will be round or oval in design and will not be less than 40 feet in diameter. Holding corrals may be required to be larger as determined by the COAR/Project Inspector.
 - (f) All trap and camp sites will be cleaned of all litter and debris when abandoned, to the satisfaction of the COAR.
4. Captured horses shall generally not be held more than 72 hours prior to transporting to Palomino Valley (Reno), Nevada. Exceptions to the 72 hours maximum may only be granted by the COAR/PI.
5. Horses held for 10 hours or more in the traps or holding facility will be provided good quality hay at the rate of not less than (2) two pounds of hay per 100 pounds of body weight per day. Horses held for 24 hours or more shall be fed all the hay they will eat, or as directed by the COAR and/or Project Inspector.

6. Horses held for 10 hours or more in the traps and/or the holding facility will be provided, by the contractor, fresh, clean water in an amount sufficient to satisfy the demand as directed by the COAR and/or Project Inspector.
7. Where required by the COAR and/or Project Inspector, animals will be sorted by age, size, sex, temperament, and condition while at the trap and holding corrals so as to minimize, to the extent possible, injury due to fighting and trampling.
8. The COAR and/or Project Inspector shall be responsible for determining the need and provide for the treatment of sick or injured animals. The COAR and/or Project Inspector shall also determine if an injured animal must be destroyed and provide for destruction of the animals. The contractor shall dispose of carcasses as directed by the COAR and/or Project Inspector.
9. The contractor will be required to furnish locks and chains to lock outside gates of the holding corral if deemed necessary by the COAR.
10. The COAR and/or Project Inspector will make available a Nevada State Brand Inspector for the purpose of inspecting the animals for brands.
11. All feed, water, vehicles, helicopters, fuel and maintenance for vehicles, traps, holding facilities, loading chutes (no open sided chutes, open sided chutes must be lined with plywood or other suitable material) troughs and any other necessary equipment will be provided by the contractor.

The contractor will be required to provide the temporary holding corrals, squeeze chutes and manpower to assist the Brand Inspector.

Contractor shall provide sufficient experienced personnel and saddle horses with appropriate tack to complete the required work.

12. Government Furnished Property

Radio equipment necessary for air to ground communications will be provided to the contractor, as necessary, for helicopter operations, (except for the adapter in the helicopter).

13. Roundup Procedures Within Contract Area

The COAR/PI will determine specific roundup areas and number of horses to be removed within general contract areas as animal concentration and weather conditions dictate. The trap will be moved a minimum of two times.

14. Only those bids from contractors with a proven background of capability and experience in handling wild or feral horses will be considered. Please complete the attached questionnaire and return with the bid.

PREPARED BY:

Hal M. Bybee
Hal M. Bybee
Wild Horse & Burro Specialist

4-29-82
Date

REVIEWED BY:

Howard Hedrick
Howard Hedrick
Egan Area Manager

May 10, 1982
Date

Mark Barber
Mark Barber
Chief, Div. of Resources (Acting) &
District Wildlife Biologist

4-29-82
Date

John Barnes
John Barnes
District Range Specialist

7-12-82
Date

Kathy Lindsey
Kathy Lindsey
District Environmental Coordinator

4/29/82
Date

B. J. Graves
B. J. Graves
Forest Supervisor
Humboldt National Forest

6-21-82
Date

CAPTURE PLAN FOR MONTE CRISTO HORSE GATHER

Introduction

The proposed gathering area, the Monte Cristo Herd Management Area, is located in White Pine and Nye Counties, Nevada, approximately 30 air miles west of Ely, Nevada. The herd management area lies on the west slopes and foothills of the White Pine Range (USFS) and extends into the east side of the Bull Creek drainage in Railroad Valley and the southern end of Newark Valley (BLM). This management area is managed in a cooperative plan between the Ely District BLM and the Humboldt National Forest. Maps are attached to help readers locate the proposed gathering area.

This document outlines the process and the events involved with the Monte Cristo wild horse gather. Included are the number of horses to be captured, the time and method of capture and the handling of captured horses. Also outlined are the BLM and Forest Service personnel involved with the roundup, the delegation of authority, the briefing of the Contractor, and the public meeting to be held.

Number of Horses to be Gathered

The Herd Management Plan prepared by the Ely District, Bureau of Land Management and the White Pine Ranger District, Humboldt National Forest states that horse numbers will be maintained at an average of 96 head. Total numbers on the entire area will not be allowed to increase above 120 head or be decreased below 72 head. This allows for a 25% fluctuation of the average numbers. An aerial inventory was conducted in 1981 and a total of 206 horses were counted.

The proposed number of horses to be gathered is approximately 150 animals. This number is tentative because it is not known what the contract cost will be at the present time, how the capturing process will proceed due to climatic conditions, the animals behavior and other unforeseen factors. The actual number of horses to be gathered will be determined by a pre gathering inventory.

Time, Method and Location of Capture

The roundup is scheduled to start after September 1, 1982 and to be completed by December 30, 1982. Other roundups may be scheduled in this area within an 18 month period.

The method of capture to be used will be a helicopter, and horseback riders at the wings of portable traps.

The temporary traps and corrals will be constructed from portable pipe panels. An adjoining holding corral will be constructed to hold horses after capture.

Other methods of capture are not being considered because of the increased cost per horse. Water trapping, though easier on horses, is not feasible due to the numerous springs, reservoirs and other water sources available to horses in the proposed gathering area. Water traps take time to construct and require time for horses to accept as part of their environment; the time allotted to this roundup is limited. Also, water traps after being used a few times are not successful in capturing horses. Trapping horses by running them on horseback is not feasible because it is too easy to lose the horses after starting them towards the trap, injuries to both people and horses is more likely, and the cost factor shown from previous roundups using this method indicates that the costs are prohibitive.

The following stipulations will be applied to the helicopter and wing traps capture method:

1. Under the provision of 43 CFR 4740.4, the use of the helicopter shall be regulated to the extent that:
 - (a) The helicopter shall be used in such a manner that bands or herds will tend to remain together.
 - (b) The rate of movement shall not exceed limitations set by the COAR and/or Project Inspector who shall consider terrain, weather, distance to be traveled and condition of animals. The contractor shall provide the helicopter/pilot for the COAR and/or Project Inspector to perform an aerial reconnaissance prior to capture at each trap site to set these limitations. (Not to exceed 5 hours flight time).
 - (c) The COAR/Project Inspector shall have the option at any time to ride in the helicopter to monitor the gathering.
 - (d) The contractor shall provide the COAR/PI five hours helicopter time for a post gathering inventory.
2. All motorized equipment employed in the transportation of captured horses shall, under the provisions of 43 CFR 4740.4(b), be subject to the following reservations and/or restrictions:
 - (a) All such transportation shall be in compliance with appropriate State and Federal laws and regulations applicable to the humane transportation of horses.
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Handling of Branded Horses

Branded horses will be sorted from wild horses at the holding facility in the gathering area after inspection by the COAR and State brand inspector.

Claims by individuals will be limited to branded horses and current year's colts by branded mares. Final determination on claimed horses will be made by BLM and the Forest Service.

Before horses can be turned over to the individual(s), the Bureau or Forest Service must collect a trespass fee, gathering costs, and any other associated costs.

Unclaimed branded horses will be sold at public auction by the Bureau of Land Management.

Personnel and Delegation of Authority

The COAR will be Hal Bybee. The COAR will be directly responsible for conducting the round-up, and will appoint project inspectors and other BLM personnel as needed.

A representative from Ely Ranger District-Humboldt National Forest will be present to assist the COAR and coordinate the gathering on National Forest Land.

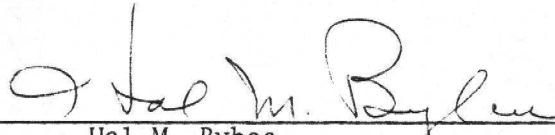
Other Forest Service personnel may be needed as determined necessary by the COAR and the District Ranger.

Other BLM personnel that will be needed to help are an archaeologist to clear trap sites for cultural resources and Egan Resource Area personnel.

Restricting Public Access

If the road is a BLM or Forest Service road, possibly a daily closure with hours could be put into effect, but would require notice in the Federal Register.

PREPARED BY:

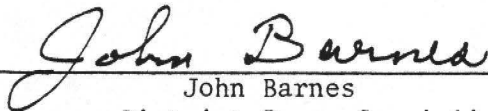


Hal M. Bybee
Wild Horse & Burro Specialist

4-29-82

Date

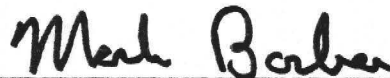
REVIEWED BY:



John Barnes
District Range Specialist

4-30-82

Date

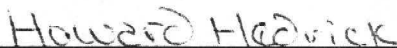


Mark Barber
Chief, Div. of Resources (Acting) &
District Wildlife Biologist

4-29-82

Date

APPROVED BY:



Howard Hedrick
Egan Area Manager

May 10, 1982


Date



George W. Cropper
Acting District Manager

May 19, 1982

Date

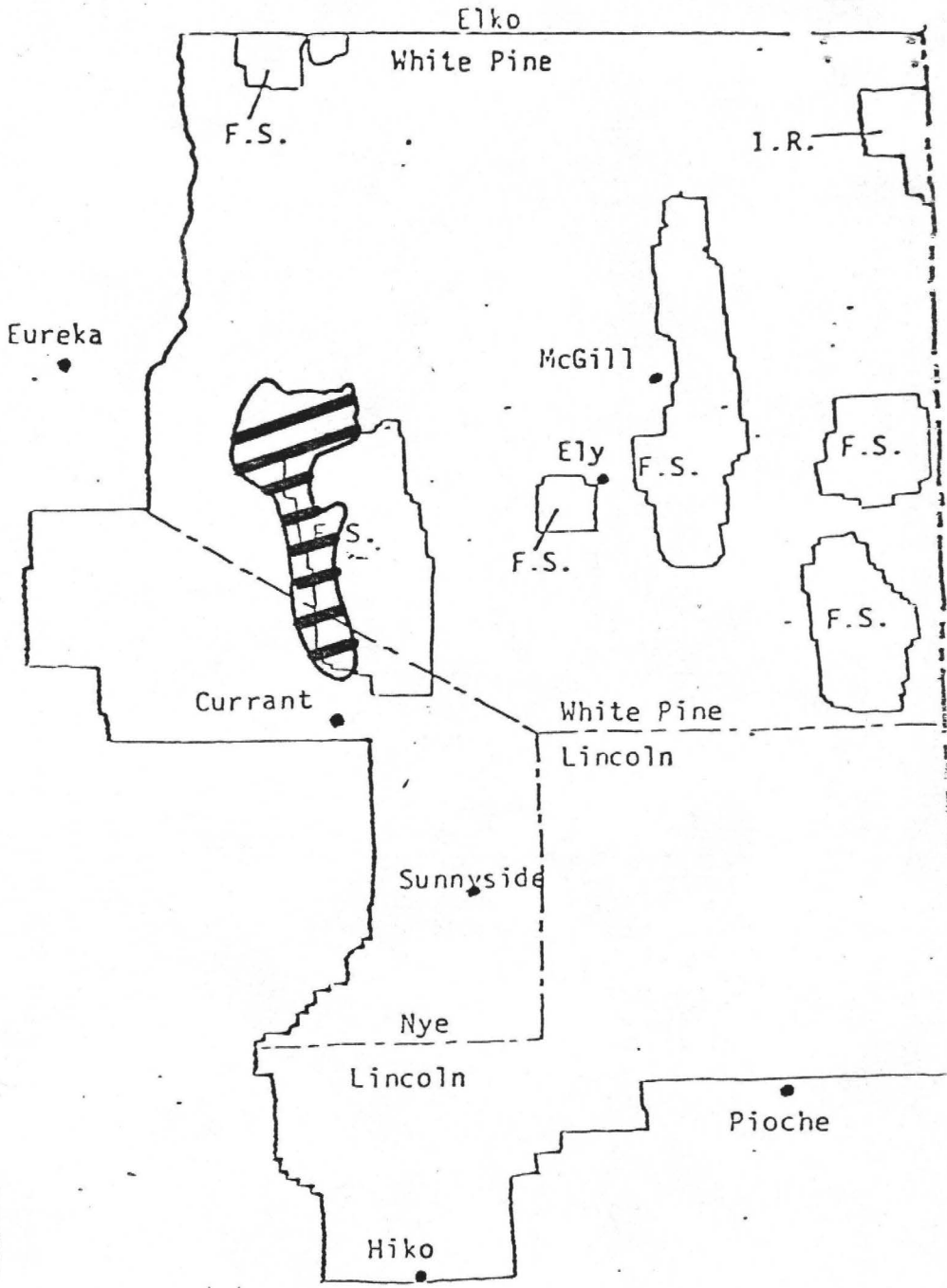


Jack Wilcox
District Ranger

June 21, 1982

Date

ELY DISTRICT



Nevada BLM Districts



LEGEND

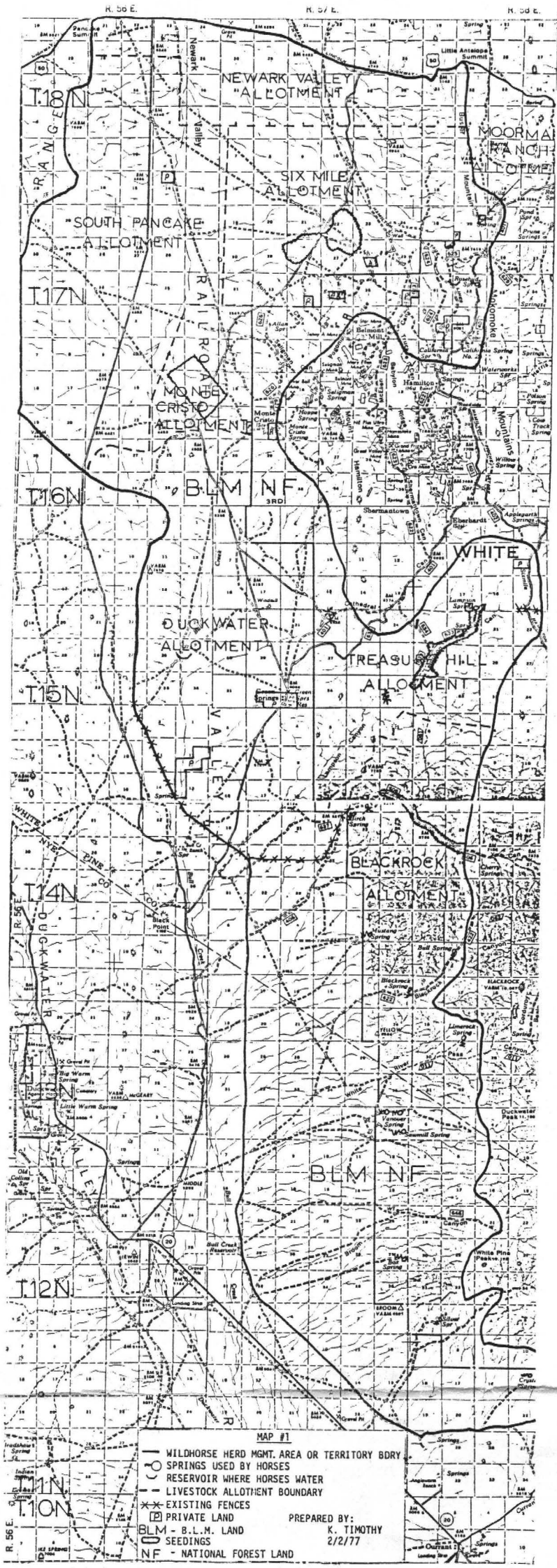
Ely District Boundary

County Boundary

Monte Cristo Herd Unit

Humboldt National Forest





MAP #1

- WILDHORSE HERD MGMT. AREA OR TERRITORY BDRY
- SPRINGS USED BY HORSES
- RESERVOIR WHERE HORSES WATER
- - - LIVESTOCK ALLOTMENT BOUNDARY
- ××× EXISTING FENCES
- PRIVATE LAND
- BLM - B.L.M. LAND
- SEEDINGS
- NF - NATIONAL FOREST LAND

PREPARED BY:
K. TIMOTHY
2/2/77

1-26-83



United States Department of the Interior

BUREAU OF LAND MANAGEMENT
Ely District Office
Star Route 5, Box 1
Ely, Nevada 89301

IN REPLY
REFERTO:
4700
(N-043)

January 26, 1983

Wild Horse Organized Assistance
P.O. Box 555
Reno, Nevada 89504

Dear Group:

A copy of the Capture Plan and Environmental Assessment concerning the Monte Cristo wild horse gathering was sent to you or your organization in June 1982. We appreciate your review and the comments you submitted. We are sending this letter to inform you of the results and our future plans.

A contract gathering of 100-150 wild horses was scheduled for fiscal year 1982. The gathering was later cancelled because the adoption facility at Palomino Valley, Nevada, (Reno) was unable to process the excess animals.

As you probably recall, the cooperative wild horse management plan between the Humboldt National Forest and the BLM set management numbers at an average of 96 head. This number allowed for a 25% fluctuation, so as not to be decreased below 72 head or increased above 120.

Based on the information available in June 1982 a removal of 100-150 excess horses was proposed and later planned. In September 1982 additional data was gathered when BLM and Forest Service personnel conducted an aerial inventory and counted 365 wild horses in the Monte Cristo Herd Management Area.

In an effort to reduce the herd to the approved management level, BLM/Forest Service are proposing to remove 250 horses sometime after July 15, 1983.

Any additional comments you may have should be received no later than March 30, 1983, for consideration in this proposed action. If you have any questions or require additional information please contact:
Bureau of Land Management
Star Route 5, Box 1
Ely, Nevada 89301

Sincerely yours,

Merrill L. Despain
Ely District Manager