

## United States Department of the Interior

IN REPLY REFER TO: 4700 (NV-043)

## **BUREAU OF LAND MANAGEMENT**

**Ely District Office** Star Route 5, Box 1 Ely, Nevada 89301

JUL 0 1 1985

Memorandum

To:

Monte Cristo File

From:

Bob Brown, Wild Horse Specialist

Subject: Census of Monte Cristo Wild Horse Herd

On May 28 and 29, 1985, Wayne Swenson, Supervisory Range Conservationist for the Humboldt National Forest - Ely Ranger District, and I conducted an aerial census of the Monte Cristo Wild Horse Herd Area. A Bell 47G3 B-2 helicopter from El Aero Services was used to conduct the census. Jack Fulton was the pilot.

The weather for both days was clear and hot with some winds, especially near the mountains. Visibility was excellent both days.

Transects were generally in a north-south direction with some transects in an east-west direction due to topography. Total flight time was 8.8 hours. The census was intended to be as complete a count as possible to establish numbers to be gathered this summer under the Tonopah-Egan Wild Horse Removal Contract.

Only 3 of 14 collared horses in the area were counted and it is felt that a considerable number of horses may have been missed on the census. The hot dry conditions and dense pinyon juniper cover on the west slope of the White Pine Range most likely contributed to an incomplete count.

A breakdown of horses counted by general location follows:

North Pancake R	ange 2 colts	Sub Total:	21
South Newark Va 37 adults		Sub Total:	42
Buster Mountain 11 adults	- Hamilton 3 colts	Sub Total:	14
North Railroad Valley 11 adults 4 colts Sub Total:			15

Freeland Canyon/Mustang Spring 58 adults 11 colts

Sub Total:

Blackrock Canyon/Vanover Spring

75 adults

17 colts

Sub Total:

Census Total

211 adults

42 colts

Total:

253

The enclosed map shows the individual bands counted by specific location and adults/colts counted in each bands.

Bot Brown



