



United States Department of the Interior

BUREAU OF LAND MANAGEMENT

ELY DISTRICT OFFICE  
HC33 BOX 150  
ELY, NEVADA 89301-9408



IN REPLY REFER TO:

4700 (NV-040)

DEC 31 1990

Dear Reader:

The enclosed documents supplement the Antelope Wild Horse Removal Plan and the associated Environmental Assessment (EA No. NV-040-0-23), which were issued full force and effect on 8/7/90. A post removal census revealed that excess wild horses still exist within the gather area. Due to the severity of the resource damage, it is necessary to fully implement the Antelope Wild Horse Removal Plan and the Final Multiple Use Decisions (FMUDs) for the Chin Creek, Tippett, and Sampson Creek Allotments. The FMUDs established the appropriate management levels for wild horses on these allotments and the gather which was conducted in September 1990 failed to achieve these levels. This follow-up removal is a continuation of the Antelope Wild Horse Removal Plan and therefore, continues to be issued full force and effect.

Thank you for your interest in the Ely District wild horse program.

Sincerely,

Kenneth G. Walker  
Ely District Manager

2 Enclosures

1. Supplemental Removal Plan
2. DR/FONSI

Supplement to the Removal Plan for the  
Antelope Wild Horse Gather

This document is a supplement to the Removal Plan for Antelope Wild Horse Gather which was signed and issued full force and effect on 8/7/90. Only those items which are different from the original document are addressed here. This includes numbers to be removed, proposed gather area, time of the gather, and possible number of traps required to complete the removal. An environmental assessment is not needed because the methodology of removing wild horses and potential impacts remain the same and were adequately analyzed in the environmental assessment (EA No. NV-040-0-23). No further analysis is required. Due to changes in the numbers to be removed and dates of removal, a new DR/FONSI is being issued as a decision document for this new information.

Numbers to be Removed

A total of 412 wild horses were removed during the Antelope Wild Horse Gather between 9/17 and 9/29/90. A post removal census conducted on 9/30 and 10/1/90 revealed that all excess wild horses had not been removed and another removal is necessary as soon as possible from the Chin Creek and Tippett Allotments. Therefore, the BLM will conduct a follow-up helicopter removal of approximately 123 excess wild horses from the Chin Creek Allotment, 75 from the Tippett Allotment, and 31 from the horse free area adjacent to the HMA for a total of 229 horses. If the removal is conducted prior to the 1991 foaling season, 229 excess wild horses will be removed. If the removal is not conducted prior to the foaling season, a new census will be necessary to determine the numbers to be removed.

The Chin Creek, Tippett, and Sampson Creek Allotment Final Multiple Use Decisions (FMUDs) were issued on 7/16/90, 7/17/90, and 7/18/90 in full force and effect due to the severity of the resource damage which was occurring, in part, due to an overpopulation of wild horses. Through monitoring and evaluation, it was determined that reductions were necessary in wild horse and livestock numbers. The FMUDs identified that the appropriate management level (AML) of wild horses is 152 horses on the Chin Creek Allotment, 34 on the Tippett Allotment, and 25 on the Sampson Creek Allotment in order to maintain a thriving natural ecological balance in a multiple use relationship. The FMUDs amended The Antelope Herd Management Area Plan (HMAP), to reflect these new numbers based on monitoring. Also, the objectives in the HMAP state that the BLM will:

"Maintain the wild horse population through periodic removals at an appropriate management level of 303 wild horses with a range of 258 to 348 (+ 15 percent) in order to maintain a viable breeding population"

Although the AML of 303 has been modified based on monitoring, the concept of the fifteen percent range is still a valid management action and will be applied to the numbers established in the FMUDs for these allotments. If the animals are removed to the low end of the range, fewer gathers are necessary which minimizes stress to the horses. Once the numbers have increased to the higher end of the range, another gather will be conducted. The proposed numbers to be removed include this 15 percent below the appropriate management level as established in the FMUDs. Therefore the number of horses to remain in the Chin Creek Allotment is  $152 - 15\% = 129$ , the number of horses to remain on the Tippet Allotment is  $34 - 15\% = 29$ , and the number to remain on the Sampson Creek Allotment is  $25 - 15\% = 21$ .

The removal is necessary to achieve the AML of wild horses on these allotments as identified in the respective FMUDs. On 9/17/90 a wild horse removal began in the Antelope HMA which resulted in a removal of 412 wild horses. A post removal census, conducted on 9/30 and 10/1, 1990, showed that a total of 574 wild horses remained on the HMA. There were 252 horses (123 in excess) on the Chin Creek Allotment and 104 horses (75 in excess) on the Tippet Allotment. Including the 31 horses in the adjacent horse free area, it is necessary to remove 229 excess wild horses. The following table describes the numbers to be removed and the numbers to remain:

<u>Gather Area</u>	<u>10/90 Census</u>	<u>AML</u>	<u>AML - 15%</u>	<u># in Excess</u>	<u># to Remove</u>
Antelope HMA (Chin Creek, Tippet, and Sampson Creek Allotments)	374	211	179	198	198
Horse free area	<u>31</u>	<u>0</u>		<u>31</u>	<u>31</u>
Totals	<u>405</u>	<u>211</u>	<u>179</u>	<u>229</u>	<u>229</u>

#### Gather Area

The proposed gather area is the same as in the original Removal Plan. Excess horses remain on Chin Creek and Tippet Allotments. Sampson Creek Allotment is included in the gather area because it is unfenced and horses are known to move back and forth between Chin Creek and Sampson Creek Allotments. Horses will only be removed from Sampson Creek if excess horses move onto the allotment. After the gather, a post removal census will be conducted to ensure that at least 179 wild horses will remain within the gather area.

Number of Traps

The removal will probably require the use of three portable traps; one each in Chin Creek and Tippett Allotments and one in the horse free area. All of the specifications and mitigation for the gather remain the same as in the original plan.

Time of Gather

The follow-up removal will take place from approximately 2/1/91 through 2/28/91. Horses will not be removed during the foaling season from March 1 through July 1. If all excess wild horses are not removed prior to the foaling season, they will be removed as soon as possible after the foaling season with a new census to determine numbers to be removed at that time. Completion of this follow-up removal will take place before Sept. 30, 1991.

Prepared by:

Sheree L. Kahle

Sheree L. Kahle  
Wild Horse and Burro Specialist  
Schell Resource Area

12/17/90  
Date

Reviewed by:

Robert E. Brown

Robert E. Brown  
Wild Horse and Burro Specialist  
Ely District Office

12/17/90  
Date

Timothy B. Reuwsaat

Timothy B. Reuwsaat  
Assistant District Manager, Resources  
Ely District Office

12/17/90  
Date

Gerald M. Smith

Gerald M. Smith  
Schell Area Manager  
Ely District Office

12/18/90  
Date

Gene L. Drais

Gene L. Drais  
Egan Area Manager  
Ely District Office

12-17-90  
Date

Approved by:

Kenneth G. Walker

Kenneth G. Walker  
District Manager  
Ely District Office

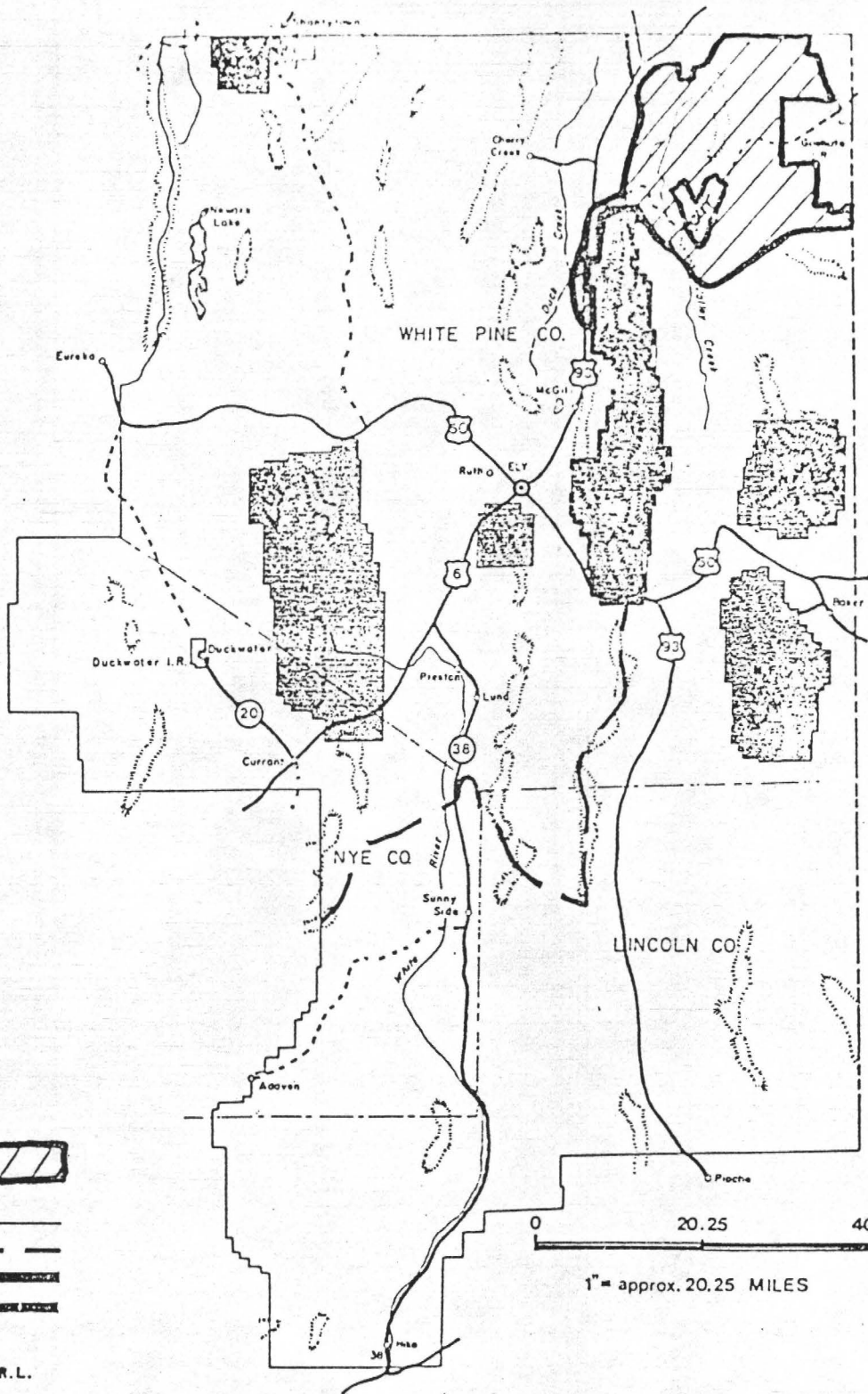
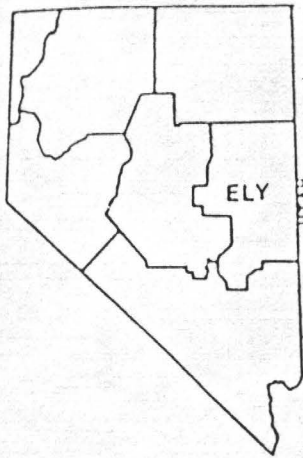
12-18-90  
Date

Concurred by:

Fred Wolf Acting

Billy R. Templeton  
Nevada State Director

DEC 28 1990  
Date

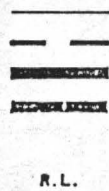


WORK LOCATION MAP

Gather Area

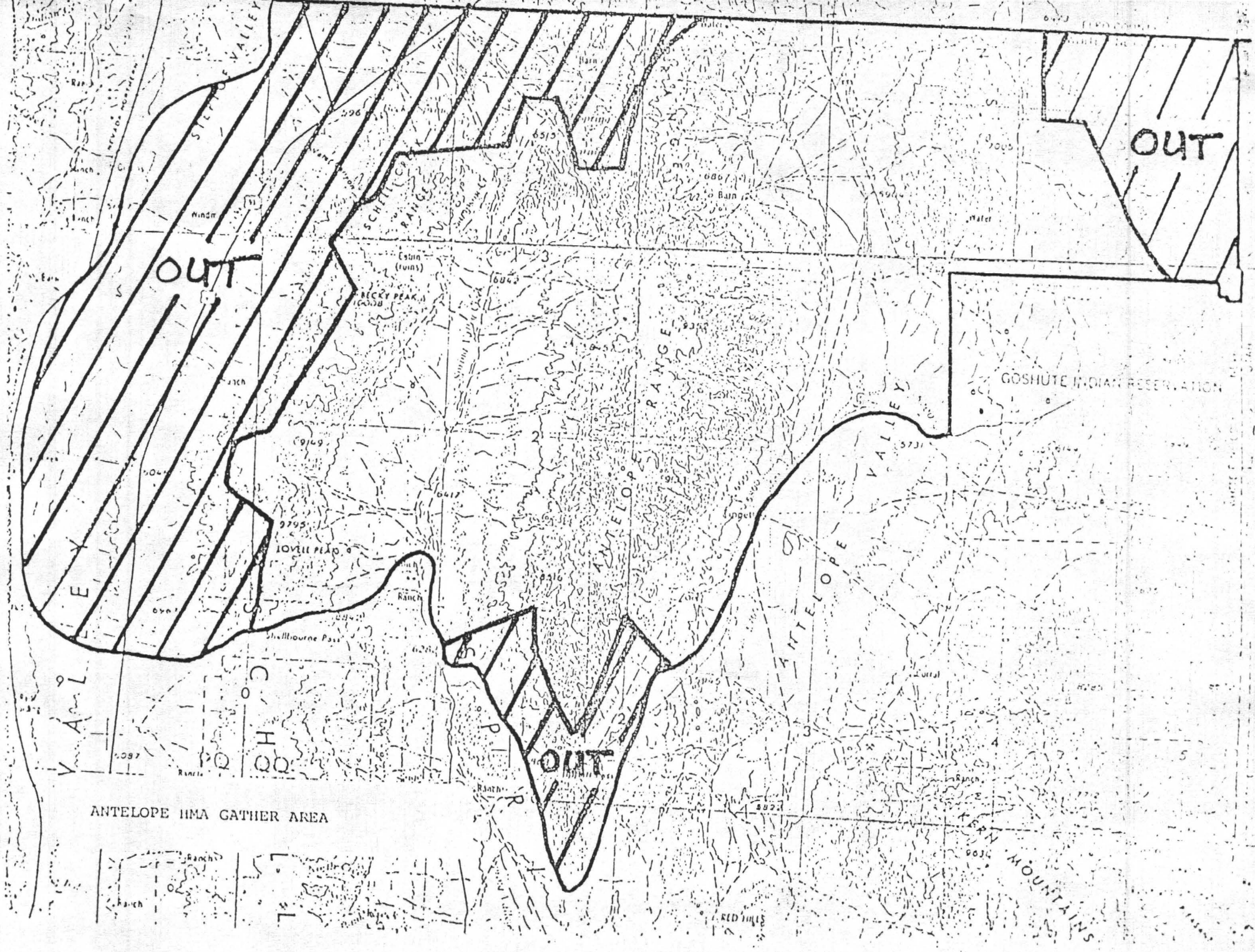


- District Boundary
- Resource Area Boundary
- Humboldt National Forest
- Indian Reservation
- Ruby Lake National Wildlife Refuge

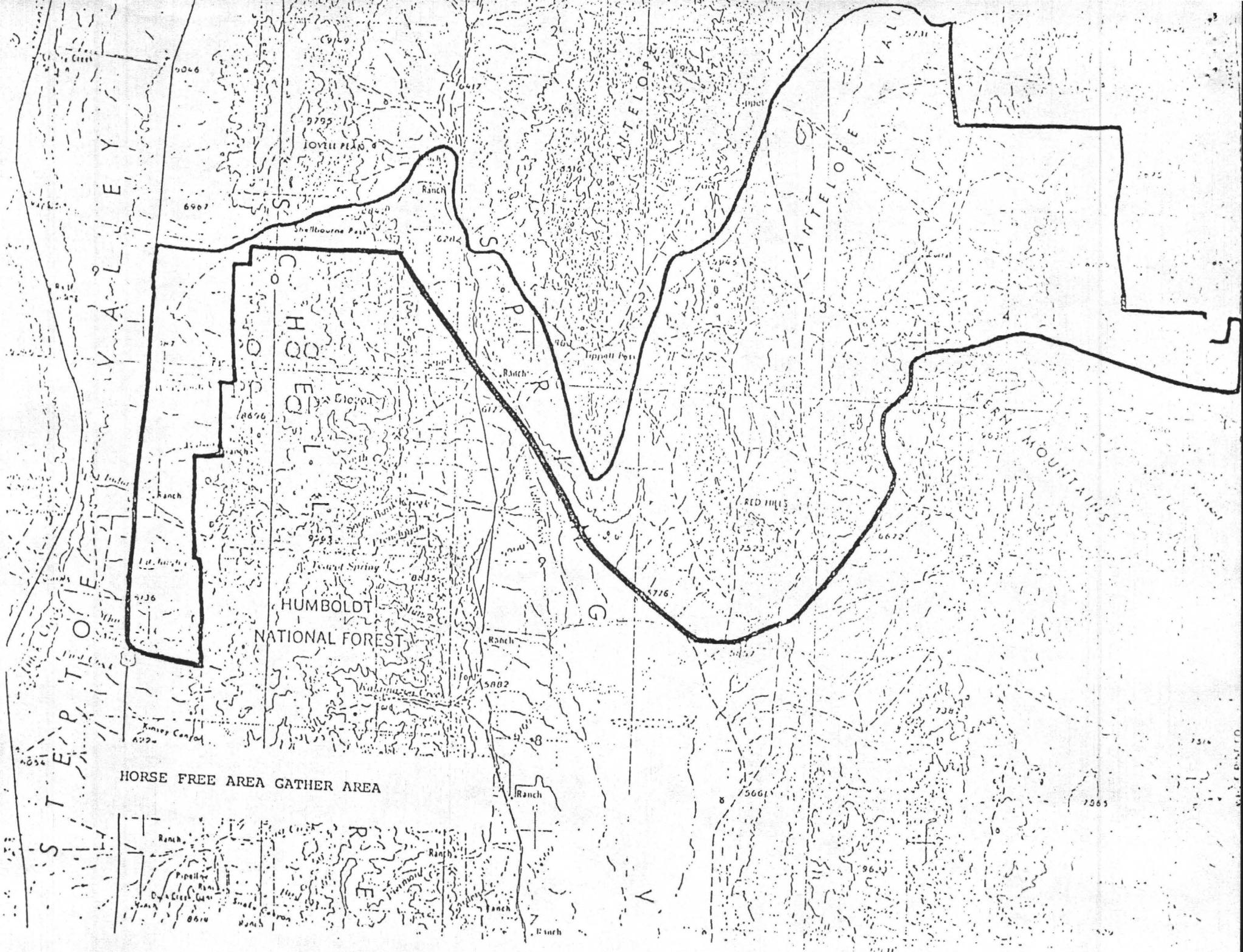


# ELY DISTRICT

BUREAU OF LAND MANAGEMENT  
U. S. DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR



ANTELOPE MOUNTAIN GATHER AREA



HORSE FREE AREA GATHER AREA

HUMBOLDT  
NATIONAL FOREST

CO  
H  
O  
R  
D  
E  
D  
L  
L

V  
A  
L  
L  
E  
Y

ANT  
E  
L  
O  
P  
E

ANT  
E  
L  
O  
P  
E

V  
A  
L  
L  
E  
Y

E  
P  
A  
M  
O  
U  
N  
T  
A  
I  
N  
S

S  
T  
E  
E  
P  
L  
E

R  
A  
N  
C  
H

R  
A  
N  
C  
H

R  
A  
N  
C  
H

R  
A  
N  
C  
H

R  
A  
N  
C  
H

R  
A  
N  
C  
H

R  
A  
N  
C  
H

R  
A  
N  
C  
H

R  
A  
N  
C  
H

R  
A  
N  
C  
H

R  
A  
N  
C  
H

R  
A  
N  
C  
H

R  
A  
N  
C  
H

R  
A  
N  
C  
H

R  
A  
N  
C  
H

R  
A  
N  
C  
H

R  
A  
N  
C  
H

R  
A  
N  
C  
H

R  
A  
N  
C  
H

R  
A  
N  
C  
H

R  
A  
N  
C  
H

R  
A  
N  
C  
H

R  
A  
N  
C  
H

R  
A  
N  
C  
H

R  
A  
N  
C  
H

R  
A  
N  
C  
H

R  
A  
N  
C  
H

R  
A  
N  
C  
H

R  
A  
N  
C  
H

R  
A  
N  
C  
H

R  
A  
N  
C  
H

R  
A  
N  
C  
H

R  
A  
N  
C  
H

R  
A  
N  
C  
H

R  
A  
N  
C  
H

R  
A  
N  
C  
H

R  
A  
N  
C  
H



DR/FONSI  
for  
Antelope Wild Horse Gather  
EA No. NV-040-0-23

Decision: I have reviewed the Environmental Assessment for the Antelope Wild Horse Gather and concur with my staff's assessment. I approve of the proposed action to conduct a followup helicopter removal of excess wild horses in order to achieve the appropriate management level (AML) of wild horses in the Chin Creek and Tippet Allotments. According to the post removal census (9/30 and 10/1/90), there are 229 excess wild horses remaining on the gather area (Chin Creek, Tippet, and Sampson Creek Allotments and the adjacent horse free area). All mitigation for the gather remains the same as in the original decision, and contract stipulations will ensure humane treatment of the horses during and after capture.

The removal of wild horses will leave a minimum of 129 horses on the Chin Creek Allotment, 29 on the Tippet Allotment, and 21 on the Sampson Creek Allotment which is based on current monitoring data for the Antelope HMA and the Final Multiple Use Decisions (FMUDs) for these allotments. The FMUDs and the Antelope Wild Horse Gather Plan were issued full force and effect and it is necessary to remove the wild horses to the appropriate numbers immediately. Since this document is a supplement to the Antelope Wild Horse Gather Plan, it is also issued full force and effect.

The 229 animals to be removed includes removing 15 percent under the numbers established in the FMUDs. The 15 percent was established in the Antelope Herd Management Plan (HMAP) in order to minimize stress to the horses which may occur if horses are gathered too frequently.

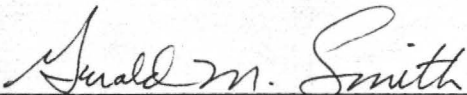
Rationale: The proposed action should be undertaken to manage the portion of the HMA within the gather area for a thriving natural ecological balance. The FMUDs for the Chin Creek and Tippet Allotments identified wild horses as being primary contributors to the resource deterioration occurring within a portion of the HMA.

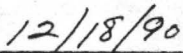
The removal of wild horses from the horse free area (outside HMA boundaries) should be undertaken to comply with Title 43 CFR 4710.4.

The removal plan is in conformance with the Wild Free-Roaming Horse and Burro Act of 1971 (P.L. 92-195), as amended. It also conforms with the Schell Resource Area MFP, ROD, the FMUDs for the Chin Creek, Tippet and Sampson Creek Allotments, and the Antelope HMAP.

FONSI: There will not be a significant impact to the quality of the human environment resulting from the implementation of the proposed action. Therefore, an environmental impact statement is not required for this action.

Rationale: Analysis of impacts in the EA did not identify any unique or unknown risks. The standard operating procedures and mitigating measures will minimize the negative impacts. Direct and indirect environmental benefits are anticipated for wild horses, livestock and wildlife with the adoption of the proposed action. The removal will help slow the degradation and deterioration of the vegetative resources and the irreparable damage occurring on portions of the HMA.

  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Gerald M. Smith  
Schell Resource Area Manager

  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Date