

3-14-69

6854

State Director, Nevada

March 14, 1969

District Manager, Winnemucca

Wild Horse Census

The wild horse count was completed in this district on March 12, 1969. A total of 864 horses and 21 burros were counted during approximately 21 hours of flight time covering 1900 miles. Cost of the project was \$753.72.

We estimate that approximately 80% of the horses were counted, therefore the total estimated number for the district is 1095 horses and burros.

Such a high percentage count was possible because of the concentration of the horses on the hillsides below the snow level at 5000'. In only one instance were horses found in sizeable numbers on large valley floors. This was in the Seven Troughs area.

Other factors which contributed to this exceptionally good count were the Area Managers knowledge of general locations of horses and specific knowledge as to the presence of herds that were missed. In comparison with game animals, the horses were much easier to see from the air and to identify as specific herds.

Attached is a map showing the location of horses and burros in the district. Major concentration areas are located in the Buffalo Hills, Seven Troughs, Sonoma Mountain, Hot Springs Range, and the Owyhee Desert.

The numbers for specific resource areas are as follows:

	Actual Count		Additional Herds thought present by Area Managers	Estimated Total
	Horses	Burros		
Gerlach	278	5	30	313
Paradise	260	-	40	300
Sonoma	232	1	40	273
Denio	94	15	-	109
TOTAL	<u>864</u>	<u>21</u>	<u>110</u>	<u>1095</u>

It is believed that some horses that are normally found on this district's summer ranges have moved into the Susanville District or the Pyramid Lake Indian Reservation during this winter.

A number of side benefits have resulted from this project. It has allowed Area Managers and staff personnel to become more knowledgeable about the district, and it has provided an opportunity to observe wildlife populations. The local Fish & Game Biologist was also able to accompany one flights.

Attachment:  
JCWickstrom:fr

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read "J. Wickstrom".

O R E G O N



WINNEMUCCA DISTRICT  
WILD HORSE COUNT - MARCH 12, '69  
WILD HORSE - 11  
BURRO - 3