

3/26/85

ACTIVITY _____

UNITED STATES
DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR

Bureau of Land Management

EA FACE SHEET

OFFICE: Winnemucca District FY & REPORT # _____

ACTION: Black Rock Range, Warm Springs Canyon
and Calico Mountain Gathering Plan NO. OF PAGES _____
(Project Name, Case Type, etc.)

LOCATION: Buffalo Hills, Denio Planning Unit SERIAL NO. N- NV-020-5-17

TEAM SIGNATURES	TITLE	RESOURCE VALUES ASSIGNED	HOURS
<u>Robert L. Smith</u>	Range Conservationist	Writer/Range/WH&B	15
<u>Roger T. Bly</u>	Natural Resource Specialist	Range/WH&B	2
<u>Dick W. Kubes</u>	District WH/B Specialist	Wild Horses/Burros	
<u>Kathryn E. Pedrick</u>	Archeologist	Cultural Resources	
<u>Annis Tol</u>	Wildlife Biologist	Wildlife, Sensitive Plants	
<u>Jim A. Clemon</u>	Outdoor Recreation Planner	Wilderness	
<u>Richard A. Clark</u>	Range Conservationist	Sensitive Plants	

ENVIRONMENTAL COORDINATOR: Gerald L. Moritz (Signature) 26 March 85 (Date)

COMPLIANCE OFFICER: Ad - Wild Horse & Burro Specialist (Title or Name)

DISTRICT/AREA MANAGER Gerald Braudbold (Signature)

3-26-85 (Date)

I. Description of the Alternatives Including the Proposed Action

A. Background Data

1. Location and Description of Area

The Black Rock Range, East and West, Warm Springs Canyon, and Calico Mountain Herd Use Areas (HUAs) are located on the west side of Humboldt County, Nevada. These areas are being considered for a gathering and are broken down by grazing allotments involved, appropriate management level (AML), estimated population, and acreage (Table 1). The Soldier Meadows and Leadville Allotments are located in the Buffalo Hills Planning Unit of the Sonoma-Gerlach Resource Area. The Paiute Allotment is located in the Denio Planning Unit of the Paradise-Denio Resource Area.

The Soldier Meadows Allotment is approximately 42 miles long in a north-south direction and 16 miles wide in an east-west direction. The forage values for the types of vegetation found in the Soldier Meadows Allotment have been discussed in the Range Management .44 general section of the URA. The allotment contains approximately 55% sagebrush-bluegrass and 45% salt desert shrub vegetation types. These figures are for public lands only in the allotment.

The Leadville Allotment is composed of approximately 49% of the sagebrush-mixed shrub-grass type and approximately 51% of the low sagebrush-grass type. These percentages are based solely on the public land acreage within the allotment. The allotment is approximately 19 miles long in a north to south direction and eight miles wide in a west to east direction. The forage values for the types of vegetative types in this allotment are discussed in the .44 Range Management section of the URA.

The Paiute Allotment is roughly 55 miles long north to south and 21 miles wide east to west. The low country is dominated by shadscale-greasewood types. As elevation increases and soils change, these types give way to sagebrush-grass and aspen and mountain mahogany types. For more information refer to the Range Management .44 general section of the URA.

2. Population Data

The southern portion of the Calico Mountains HUA that overlaps the Buffalo Hills and Calico Allotments are being considered in the Buffalo Hills Coordinated Resource Management and Planning (CRMP) Plan and the Buffalo Hills Gathering Plan and EA.

Attachment 1 shows the location of the gathering area within the district and Attachment 2 shows the relation of HUAs to the allotments.

The HUA estimated population of wild horses and burros were estimated from helicopter inventories on the Black Rock Range, East and West, and Warm Springs Canyon HUA in 1980 and the Calico

Mountain HUA in 1983. It is likely that horses are crossing between the Black Rock Range, East and West side.

TABLE 1.

<u>Allotment/Herd Use Area</u>	<u>Population Numbers</u> <u>Wild Horses/Burros</u>		<u>Acres</u>	
	<u>AML</u>	<u>Estimated</u> <u>Population</u>	<u>Public</u>	<u>Private</u>
1. Soldier Meadows Allotment	-		316,354 (97%)	11,172 (3%)
Warm Springs Canyon HUA	294/10	402/13	-	-
Black Rock Range West HUA	424/ 0	581/ 0	-	-
Calico Mountain HUA	117/ 0	374/ 0	-	-
2. Paiute Meadows Allotment	-	-	177,093 (97%)	5,176 (3%)
Black Rock Range East HUA	59/ 0	87/ 0	-	-
3. Leadville Allotment	-	-	54,572 (96%)	1,989 (4%)
Calico Mountain HUA	248/ 0	344/ 0	-	-

3. Reference to the Land Use Plan (LUP)

Land use plans have recently been developed for the Paradise-Denio and Sonoma-Gerlach Resource Areas. A major portion of these plans was the preparation and publication of Grazing Environmental Impact Statements which analyzed five different alternatives to manage public lands: (1) distribute available vegetation to livestock, wildlife, and wild horses/burros, (2) no action, (3) no livestock grazing, (4) maximize livestock, and (5) maximize wild horses and burros. The final analysis culminated with the issuance of the Winnemucca District Manager's Management Framework Plans (MFP) Step III decisions on June 9, 1982. The MFP III wild horse and burro (WH/B) decision number 1.1 addresses HUAs that are in non-checkerboard lands. It states:

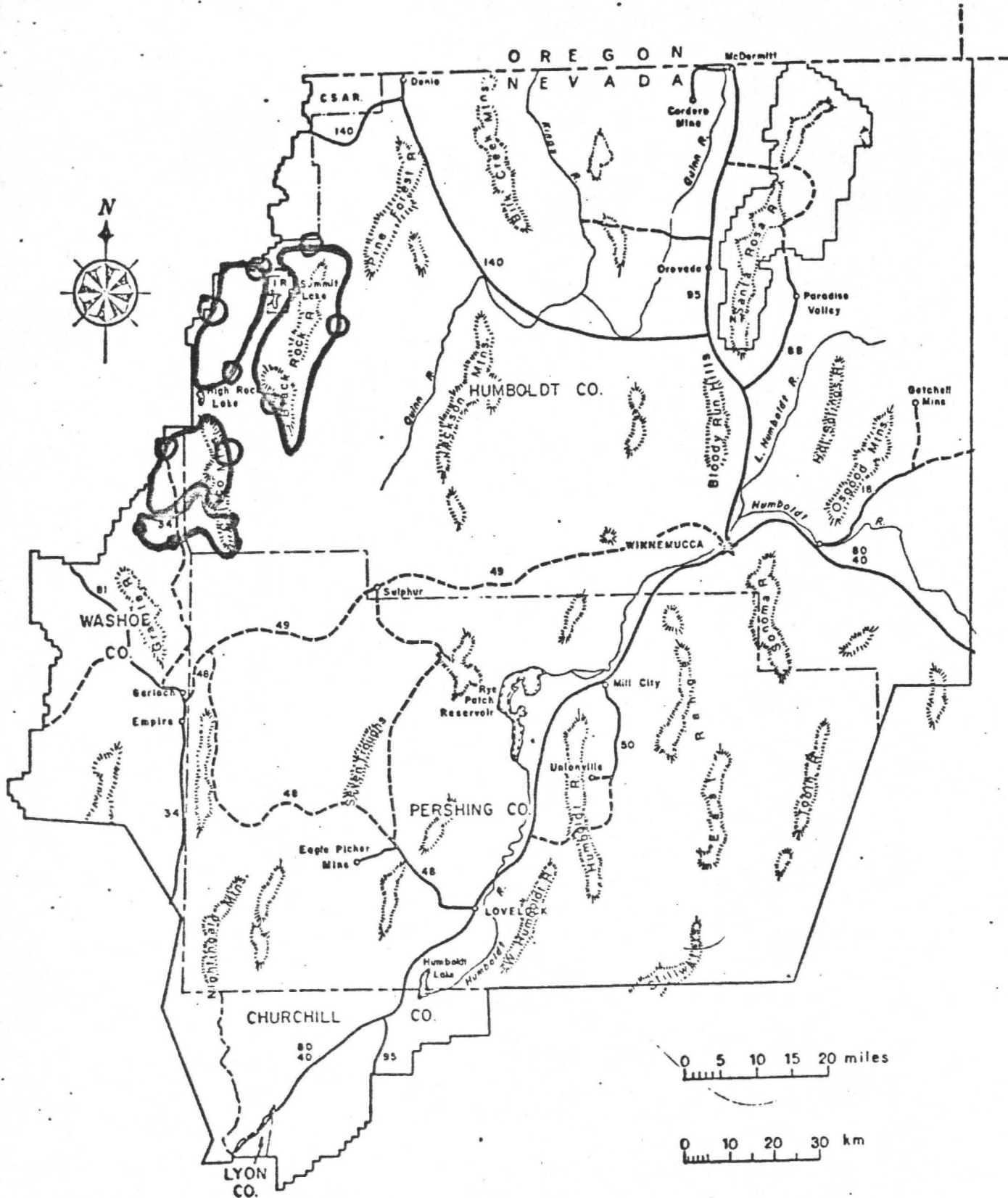
WHB 1.1

DISTRICT MANAGER'S DECISION - WILD HORSE AND BURRO PROGRAM -
NON-CHECKERBOARD LANDS

Establish wild horse and burro number by herd use area using the following criteria:

Existing/current WH&B numbers (as of July 1, 1982) will be used as a starting point for monitoring purposes except where one of the following conditions exist:

1. Numbers are established by adequate and supportable resource data.
2. Numbers are established through the CRMP process as documented in CRMP recommendations and agreed to by the District Manager.
3. Numbers are established by formal signed agreement between affected interests.



BUFFALO HILLS GATHERING PLAN



BLACK ROCK, WARM SPRINGS CANYON AND CALICO MOUNTAIN GATHERING PLAN

Round Mtn

Denio



ALLOTMENT BOUNDARIES

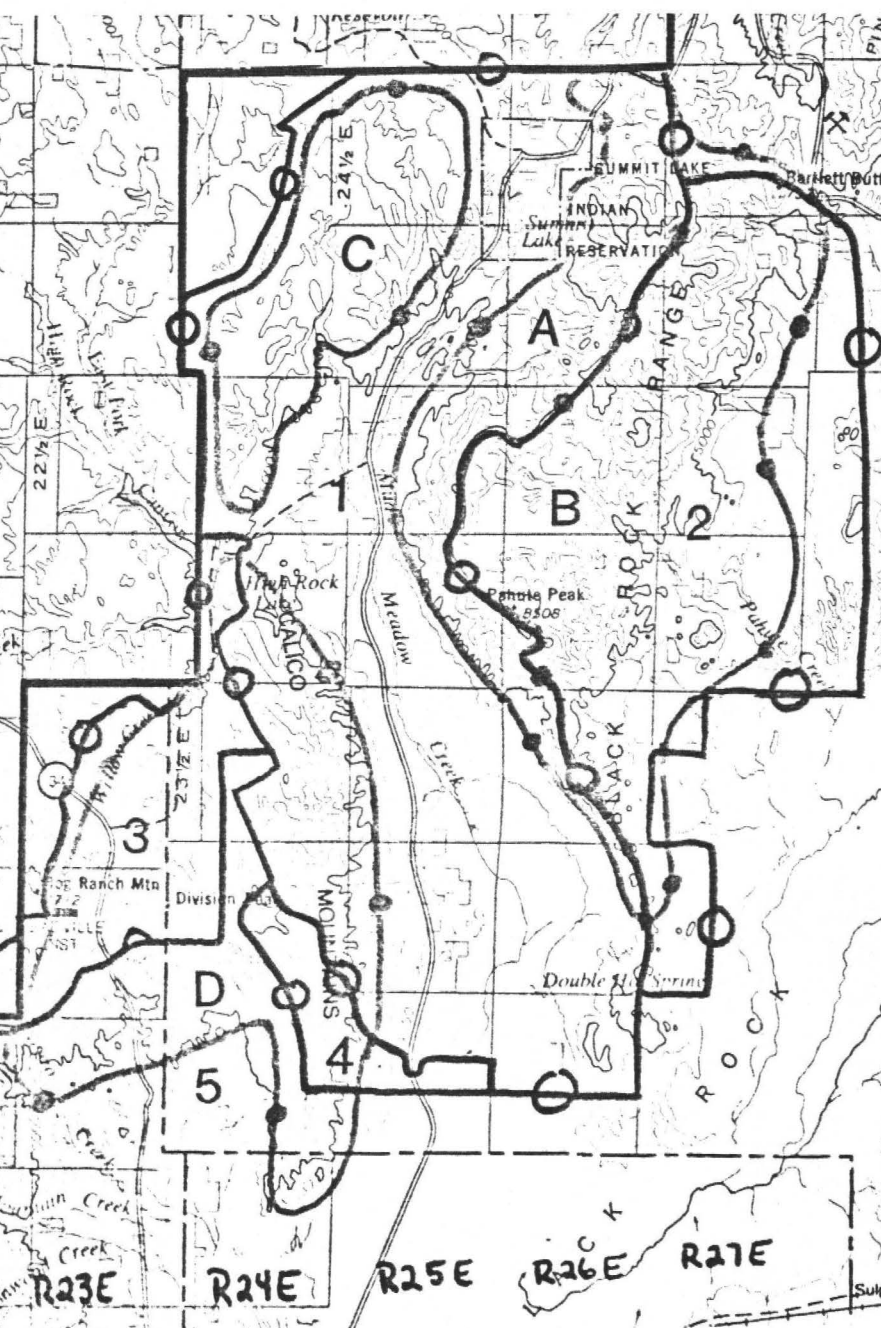


HERD USE AREA BOUNDARIES

- 1 SOLDIER MEADOWS ALLOTMENT
- 2 PAIUTE MEADOWS ALLOTMENT
- 3 LEADVILLE ALLOTMENT
- 4 CALICO ALLOTMENT
- 5 BUFFALO HILLS ALLOTMENT
- A BLACK ROCK RANGE WEST HUA
- B BLACK ROCK RANGE EAST HUA
- C WARM SPRINGS CANYON HUA
- D CALICO MOUNTAIN HUA

20
SHELDON NATIONAL 2
ANTELOPE REFUGE
Swar Lake
Middle Lake
6000
Massacre
Middle Lake
st Lake

T 42N
T 41N
T 40N
T 39N
T 38N
T 37N
S
A
W
Poodle Mtn
6956



30
34
34
29
Blue Lake
Duffer Peak
9459
Big
Sentinel Peak
6900
River
H
U
JACKSON MOUNTAIN DIST
King Leap
9970
Navajo Peak
7695
Quinn DESERT
Antelope
Sulphur

4. Numbers are established through previously developed interim capture/management plans. Plans are still supportable by parties consulted in the original plan. EAs (EARs) were prepared and are still valid.
5. Numbers are established by court order.

At the present time, the above criteria so not exist, so July 1, 1982, numbers will be the appropriate management level (AML) and will be the approximate herd size after the gathering.

B. Purpose and Need

The existing wild horse and burro population in the Black Rock Range, East and West, Warm Springs Canyon, and a portion of the Calico Mountain HUA, exceeds the AML. This action is being taken to reduce the Wild Horse & Burro population to the AML. This action is in conformance with the MFP.

C. Proposed Action

The proposed action is to remove approximately 646 wild horses and three burros from the three HUAs. The horses will be reduced to the appropriate management level, as set forth in Table 1. The proposed action would tentatively take place between July 1 and September 30, 1985, and take approximately one month to complete.

Implementation of the gathering plan will involve the construction of temporary traps with deflector wings, movement of horses by a contracted helicopter and horseback riders, transportation of horses from the traps to temporary holding corrals, holding of horses in the temporary corrals, and transportation of horses to the Palomino Valley Wild Horse and Burro Placement Center.

D. Alternatives

The Paradise-Denio and Sonoma-Gerlach Grazing EISs analyzed four different alternatives to the proposed action: (1) no livestock grazing, (2) no action, (3) maximize livestock grazing, and (4) maximize wild horse and burro grazing. The alternatives outlined in the Paradise-Denio and Sonoma-Gerlach EISs were discussed in detail. The analysis was subject to an extensive scoping process, public meetings, formal hearings, and protest periods. In an effort to avoid repetition, an analysis of these alternatives will not be reiterated in this document, but can be found in the Paradise-Denio and Sonoma-Gerlach Grazing EISs in the Winnemucca District Office files.

II. Affected Environment-Environmental Consequences-Mitigating Measures

An Environmental Assessment (EA NV-020-9-33) was prepared and approved which covered the majority of the Black Rock Range, East and West, Warm Springs Canyon, and Calico Mountain HUAs with the same proposed action in 1979. The Leadville area not considered in EA NV-020-9-33 adjoins the area of consideration and is very similar to the Paiute and Soldier Meadows Allotments. With the exception of areas being considered for wilderness designation and sensitive plants, the affected environment is the same as in EA NV-020-9-33.

A. Affected Environment

1. Wilderness Study Areas (WSAs)

Wilderness Study Areas that partially or entirely overlap the HUAs are:

Attachment 3 - High Rock Lake	- NV-020-007
Attachment 4 - Black Rock Desert	- NV-020-620
Attachment 5 - Pahute Peak (S. Black Rock)	- NV-020-621
Attachment 6 - Calico Mountain	- NV-020-019

2. Sensitive Plants

Sensitive plants located within the HUA include:

- | | |
|------------------------------------|------------------------------------|
| a. <u>Astragalus pterocarpus</u> - | T. 35 N., R. 29 E., Sec. 32 SE1/4; |
| | Sec. 15 NW1/4; |
| | T. 37 N., R. 26 E., Sec. 33 SW1/4 |
| b. <u>Mentzelia mollis</u> - | T. 39 N., R. 25 E., Sec. 15 NW1/4 |
| c. <u>Caulanthus barnebyi</u> - | T. 39 N., R. 25 E., Sec. 15 SE1/4; |
| | Sec. 23 SE1/4 |

B. Environmental Consequences

The environmental consequences will be the same as discussed in EA NV-020-9-33, except for wilderness and sensitive plants.

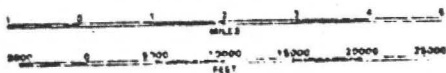
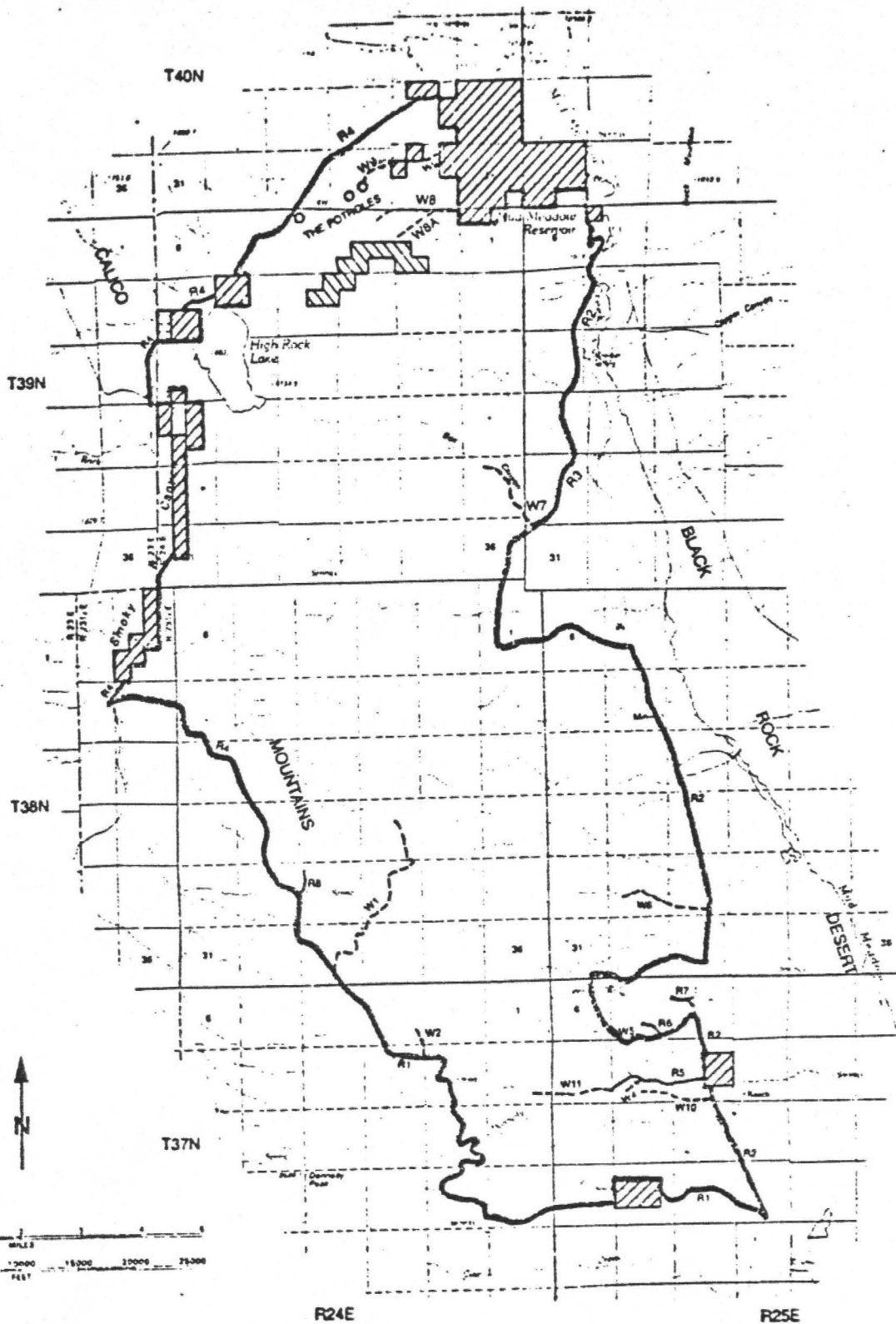
1. Wilderness








Neither the proposed action nor the alternatives would result in any significant adverse impacts on the WSAs, provided the mitigating measure discussed in Section IV is adhered to.

2. Sensitive Plants

Mitigating measures will provide protection to sensitive plants found within the HUAs.

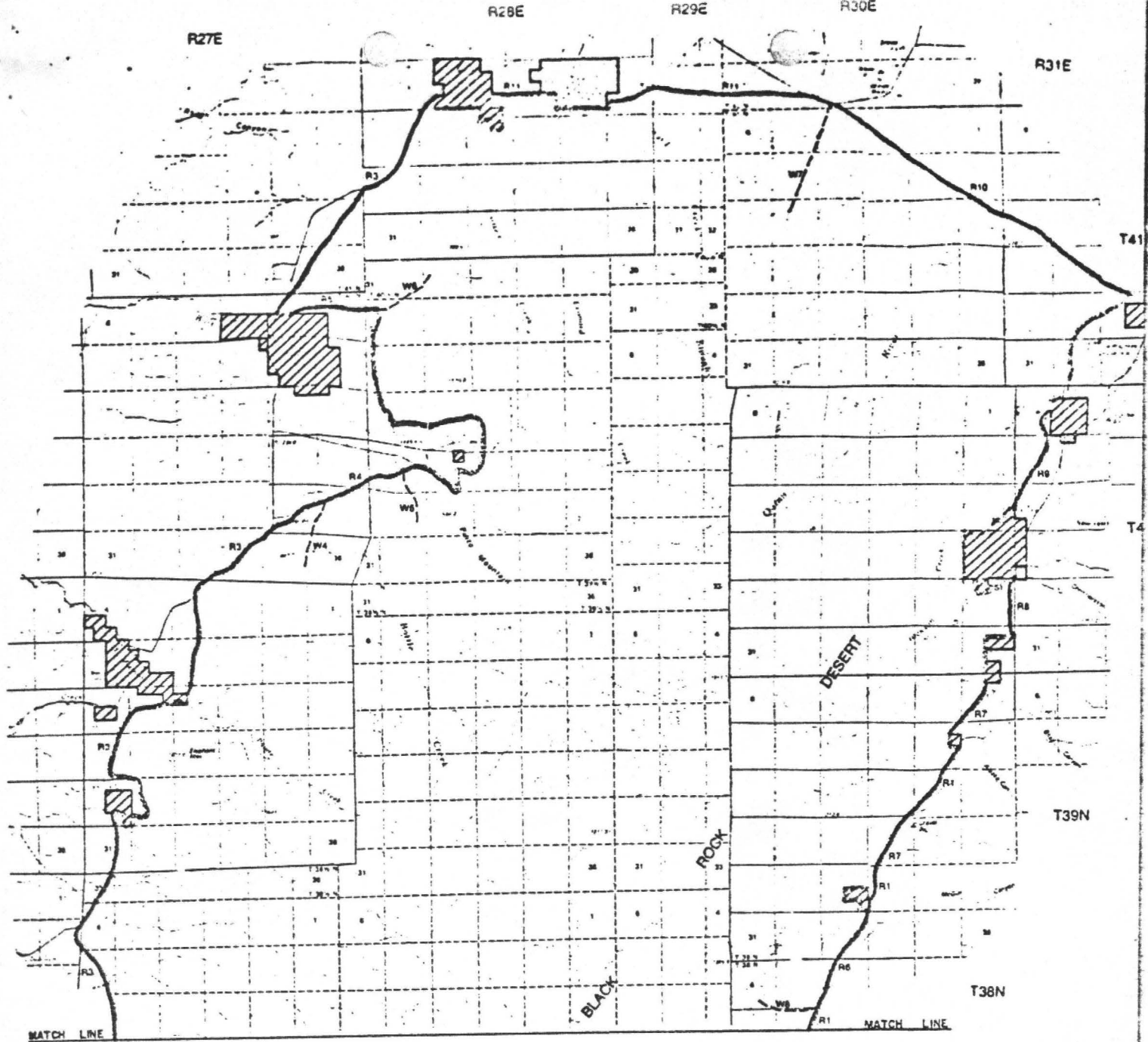
No permanent adverse impacts will occur to floodplains and wetlands, wilderness values, water resources, air quality, areas of critical environmental concern, paleontological resources, threatened or endangered plants or animal species, cultural resources, or visual resources.








-  PRIVATE LAND (SURFACE & MINERALS)
-  PRIVATE MINERALS - PUBLIC SURFACE
-  PRIVATE SURFACE - PUBLIC MINERALS
-  W. S. A. BOUNDARY
-  ROAD
-  WAY
-  GRAVEL PIT



NV-020-007 HIGH ROCK LAKE

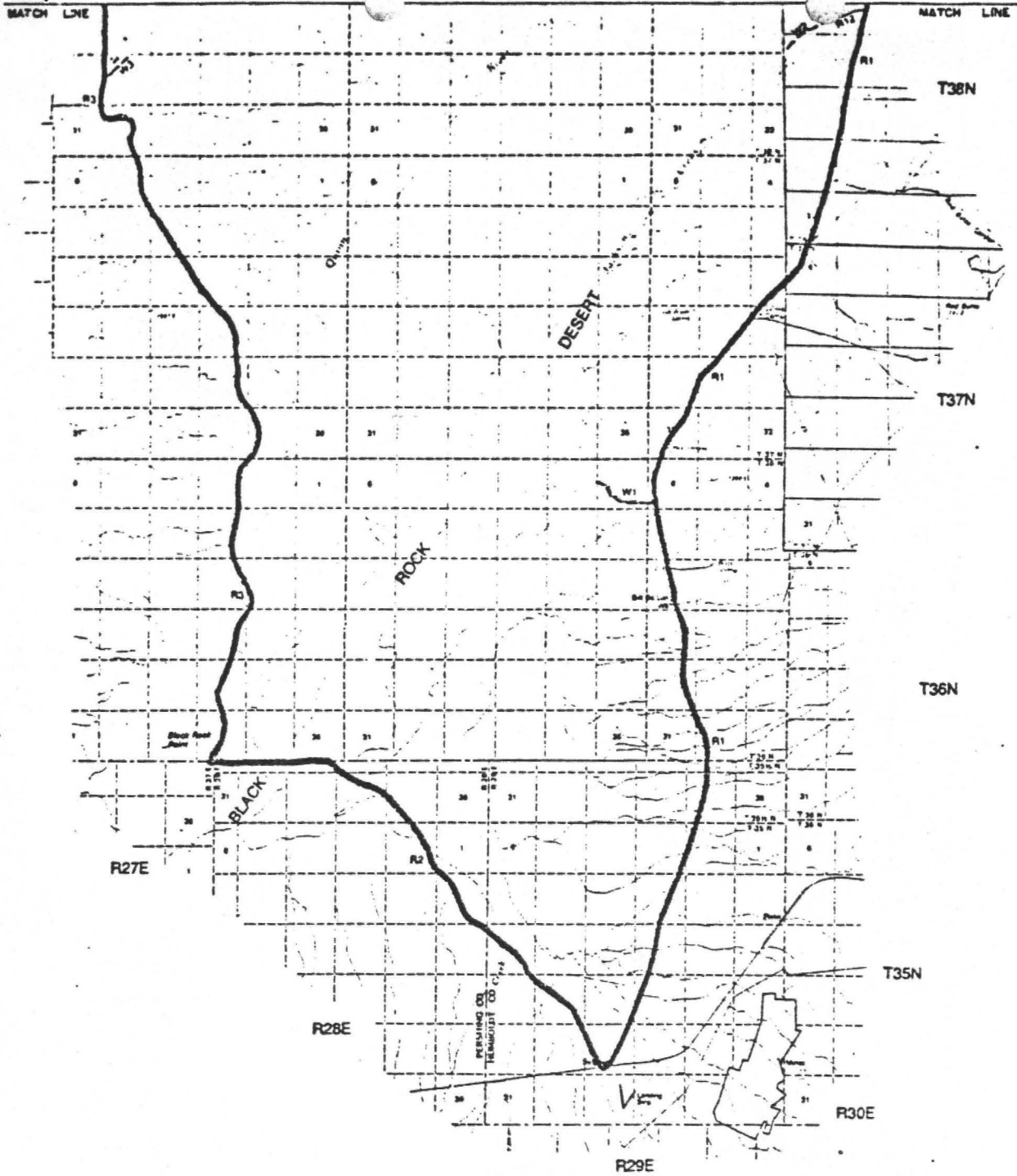






-  PRIVATE LAND(SURFACE & MINERALS)
-  PRIVATE SURFACE(PUBLIC MINERALS)
-  W. S. A. BOUNDARY
-  ROAD
-  WAY



020-620 BLACK ROCK DESERT - NORTH

ATTACHMENT #4



-  W. S. A. BOUNDARY
-  ROAD
-  WAY
-  MINE

1-020-620 BLACK ROCK DESERT - SOUTH

T38N

T37N

T36N

T35N

CALICO

MOUNTAINS

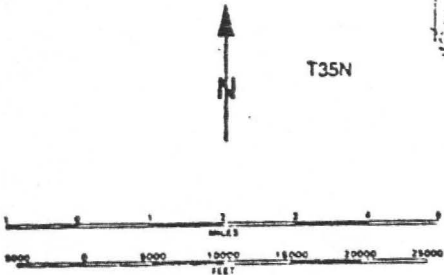
HILLS









CALICO

R26E

R24E

R25E



-  PRIVATE LAND (SURFACE & MINERALS)
-  PRIVATE SURFACE - PUBLIC MINERALS
-  W S.A. BOUNDARY
-  ROAD
-  WAY
-  PROSPECT
-  MINE
-  GRAVEL PIT



ATTACHMENT # 6

W-020-019 CALICO MOUNTAINS

C. Mitigating Measures

The mitigating measures listed in EA NV-020-9-33 will apply for this proposed action, in addition to the following:

1. The Wilderness Study Areas that partially or entirely overlap the HUAs are being managed under the Interim Management Policy (IMP) and Guidelines for Land Under Wilderness Review until such time as Congress acts on their designation. No new roads will be constructed, ways will not be bladed, and only on existing, established roads will blading be allowed. All temporary trap sites located within the WSA boundaries will be placed on existing roads and ways, not to exceed 50' either side of the access route. Cross-country travel would be allowed so long as it does not cause impacts inconsistent with the requirements of the nonimpairment criteria outlined in the IMP.
2. No activity will be allowed in the vicinity of known sensitive plants, If any threatened, endangered, or sensitive plants are found, work will stop in that area.

The Gathering Plan provides stipulations to protect the environment and resource values.

Archaeological clearance will be done on all trap sites prior to their construction. If archaeological values are present, trap sites will be moved.

V. Persons, Groups, and Agencies Consulted

American Bashkir Cured Register, Ely, NV
American Horse Protection Association, Washington, D.C.
American Humane Association, Denver, CO
Animal Protection Institute, Sacramento, CA
Buffalo Hills CRMP Committee c/o J. Conlan, Fallon, NV
B. G. Bunyard, Cedarville, CA
W. B. Ceresola, Wadsworth, NV
Fred Chez, Gerlach, NV
Wesley L. Cook, Cedarville, CA
DeLong Ranches, Inc., c/o Bill DeLong, Winnemucca, NV
John DeLong, Winnemucca, NV
Tim DeLong Cattle Company, Winnemucca, NV
Dufurrena Sheep Company c/o Alex T. Dufurrena, Denio, NV
John Espil, Susanville, CA
Fish Springs Ranch, Ltd., c/o Carl W. Rimbey, Reno, NV
Fund For Animals, New York, NY, and Phoenix, AZ
Happy Creek Ranch, Inc., c/o Jule DeLong, Winnemucca, NV
Humane Society of the U.S., Washington, D.C.
Humane Society of So. Nevada, Las Vegas, NV
International Society For the Protection of Mustangs and Burros, Reno, NV
Andrew F. and C. G. Jackson, Gerlach, NV
Mrs. Laura McKernan, Winnemucca, NV
Donald Molde, Sparks, NV
National Mustang Association, Newcastle, UT

National Wild Horse Association, Las Vegas, NV
Nevada Cattlemen's Association, Elko, NV
Nevada Humane Society, Sparks, NV
Nevada State Clearinghouse, Carson City, NV
Nevada Woolgrowers, Ely, NV
Jack Nuffer, Winnemucca, NV
Guisseppi Selmi, Gerlach, NV
Save The Mustangs, Rockwood, PA
Soldier Meadows Ranch c/o Kenneth H. Earp, Hayward, CA
Soldier Meadows Ranch c/o Willis J. Bland, Orovada, NV
William Spoo, Gerlach, NV
U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, Reno, NV
Vella Fairfax Estate, Vella L. Torvick, Executriz, Fallon, NV
Wild Horse Organized Assistance, Reno, NV

VI. Intensity of Public Interest

Nationwide, the wild horse program is very popular and there is much public sentiment to support keeping the present wild horse/burro numbers. Statewide and locally, the general attitude toward wild horses is very different. The ranchers consider the horses, if left uncontrolled, a definite threat to the existence of their livestock operations. The Nevada Department of Wildlife and wildlife enthusiasts can see the competition they place on forage and water needed for game species.

VII. Participating Staff and Signatures

The specialists who have signed the face sheet of this document have been involved in the development and review of the proposed project and concluded it would not significantly impact their resources.

Decision Record/Finding of No Significant Impact (FONSI)
Black Rock Range, Warm Springs Canyon, and Calico Mountain
Wild Horse and Burro Gathering Plan
EA NV-020-5-

Decision Record

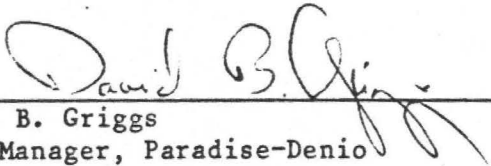
Based on the Environmental Assessment (EA) and the Management Framework Plan for the Paradise-Denio and Sonoma-Gerlach Resource Areas, a net beneficial impact to the total environment would result from implementing the proposed action; therefore, the proposed action is adopted in its entirety.

Rationale

The decision is consistent with Paradise-Denio and Sonoma-Gerlach Grazing EIS, Management Framework Plan Decisions and District Standard Operating Procedures.


FONSI

Based upon the analysis of the attached EA, we conclude that this action will result in no significant impact to the environment, and therefore conclude that no EIS is necessary.

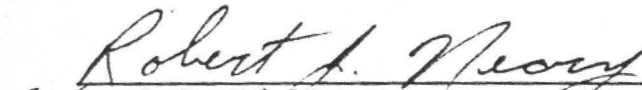


David B. Griggs
Area Manager, Paradise-Denio

3-26-85
Date


Gerald P. Brandvold
Area Manager, Sonoma-Gerlach

3-26-85
Date


for Frank C. Shields
District Manager, Winnemucca

3/26/85
Date

UNITED STATES
DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR

Bureau of Land Management

EA FACE SHEET

OFFICE: Winnemucca District Office FY & REPORT # FY 85
Sonoma Range Herd Use Area Wild
 ACTION: Horse Gathering NO. OF PAGES 7
 (Project Name, Case Type, etc.)
 LOCATION: Sonoma Planning Unit SERIAL NO. N-V-020-5-18

TEAM SIGNATURES:	TITLE	RESOURCE VALUES ASSIGNED	HOURS
<i>Robert T. Boyer</i>	Natural Resource Specialist	Author/Range/WH&B	8
<i>Dick W. Perkins</i>	District WH&B Specialist	WH&B	1
<i>Kathryn Pedersen</i>	Archeologist	Cultural Resources	1
<i>Rick Benson</i>	Range Conservationist	Sensitive Plants	1
<i>Lynn A. Clemens</i>	Outdoor Rec. Planner	Wilderness/VRM	1
<i>Kenneth D. Detweiler</i>	Area Wildlife Biologist	Wildlife	1

ENVIRONMENTAL COORDINATOR: *Gerald L. Mord* 26 March 85
 (Signature) (Date)

COMPLIANCE OFFICER: _____
 (Title or Name)

DISTRICT/AREA MANAGER *Gerald Brandtold*
 (Signature)
3-26-85
 (Date)

Environmental Assessment (EA)
Sonoma Range Herd Use Area (HUA) Gathering Plan
No. NV-020-5-18

I. Description of the Alternatives Including the Proposed Action

A. Background Data

1. Location and Description of Area

The Sonoma Range HUA consists of all or part of seven separate allotments: 1. Diamond S, 2. Harmony, 3. Thomas Creek, 4. Sonoma, 5. Clear Creek, 6. Pumpnickel, and 7. Rock Creek. The allotments are located in the Sonoma Planning Unit of the Sonoma-Gerlach Resource Area (see Figure 1).

The area is bordered on the north by Interstate 80, on the west by Grass Valley, on the south by the Tobin Range HUA, and on the east by Pumpnickel Valley.

The HUA consists of 148,425 acres (71%) of public lands, 59,328 acres (28%) of private land, and 1,823 acres (1%) of fenced vacant lands (see Figure 2).

2. Population Data

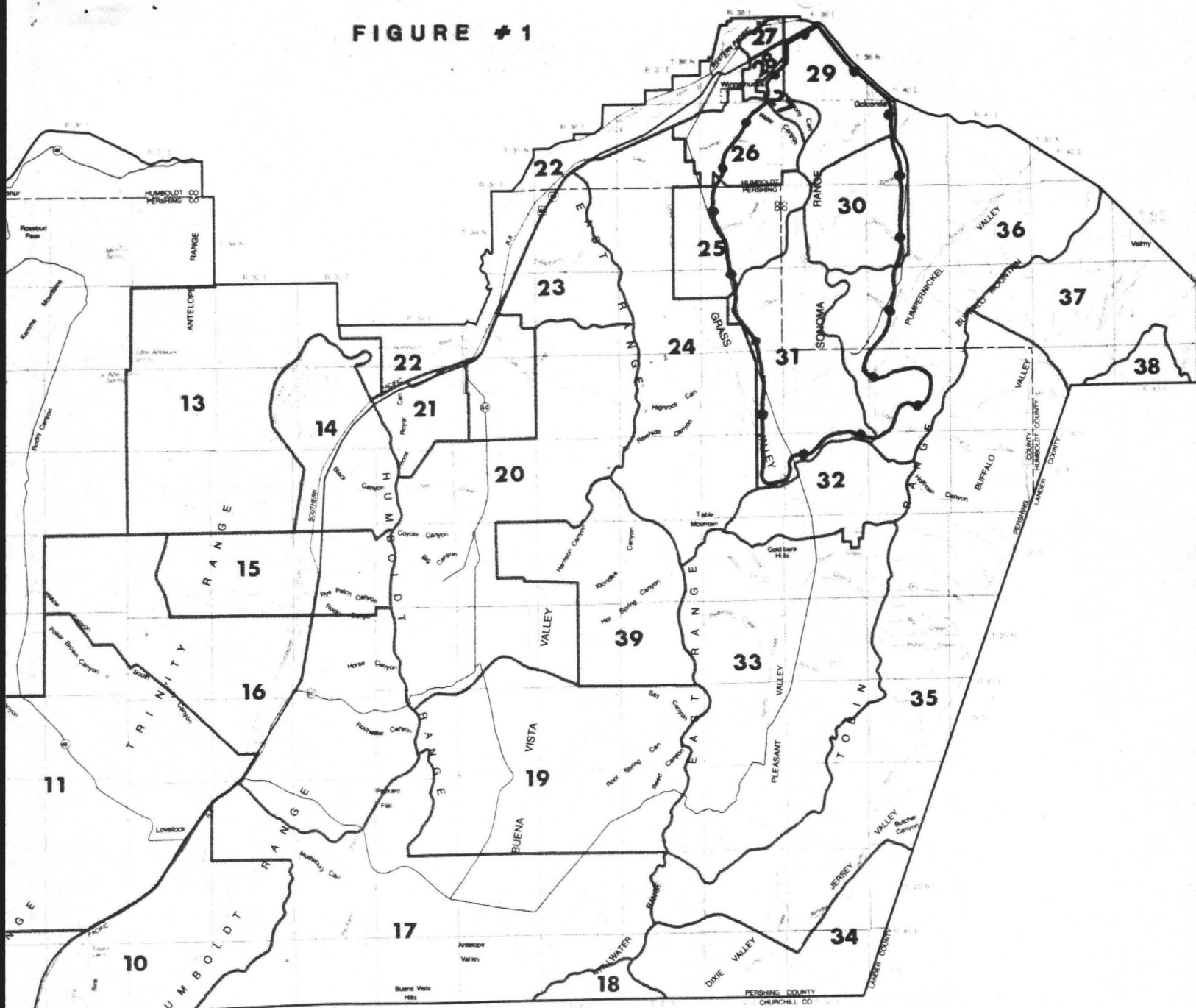
The Sonoma Range HUA was censused with a Bell 47G3B-1 Helicopter in June 1985. The census indicated there were 391 horses in the HUA. The herd primarily occupies the mid to upper elevations of the Diamond S, Harmony, Rock Creek, and Thomas Creek Allotments during the spring, summer, and fall months. In the winter, the majority of the horses move to the alluvial fans of the Diamond S Allotment adjacent to Interstate 80.

3. Reference to the Land Use Plan (LUP)

The Final Sonoma-Gerlach Grazing Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) was completed in September of 1981. It analyzed a proposed rangeland management program, along with several alternatives, for livestock grazing, wildlife habitat resources, and wild horse and burro grazing for the Winnemucca District's Sonoma-Gerlach Resource Area. Upon completion of the EIS, the District began the last phase of the planning process for these resource management programs for the purpose of determining final land use decisions. The Winnemucca District Manager's Management Framework Plan (MFP) Step III decisions were issued June 30, 1982, and received State Director's concurrence July 9, 1982.

The MFP III wild horse and burro decision number 1.3 addresses HUAs that are in a checkerboard land pattern. It states:

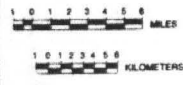
FIGURE # 1



- | | | |
|-------------------|---------------------------------------|--------------------|
| 1 SOLDIER MEADOWS | 14 HUMBOLDT HOUSE | 26 THOMAS CREEK |
| 2 LEADVILLE | 15 RYE PATCH | 27 HARMONY |
| 3 BUFFALO HILLS | 16 COAL CANYON-POKER | 28 MELODY |
| 4 CALICO | 17 ROCHESTER | 29 DIAMOND S |
| 5 COYOTE | 18 COTTONWOOD CANYON | 30 ROCK CREEK |
| 6 POLE CANYON | 19 RAWHIDE | 31 CLEAR CREEK |
| 7 RODEO CREEK | 20 STAR PEAK | 32 GOLDBANKS |
| 8 BLUE WING | 21 PRINCE ROYAL | 33 PLEASANT VALLEY |
| 9 DESERT QUEEN | 22 HUMBOLDT VALLEY | 34 JERSEY VALLEY |
| 10 HUMBOLDT SINK | (Administered by Paradise-Denio R.A.) | 35 SOUTH BUFFALO |
| 11 RAGGED TOP | 23 WHITE HORSE | 36 PUMPERNICKEL |
| 12 SEVEN TROUGHS | 24 DOLLY HAYDEN | 37 NORTH BUFFALO |
| 13 MAJUBA | 25 SONOMA | 38 LICKING |
| | | 39 KLONDIKE |



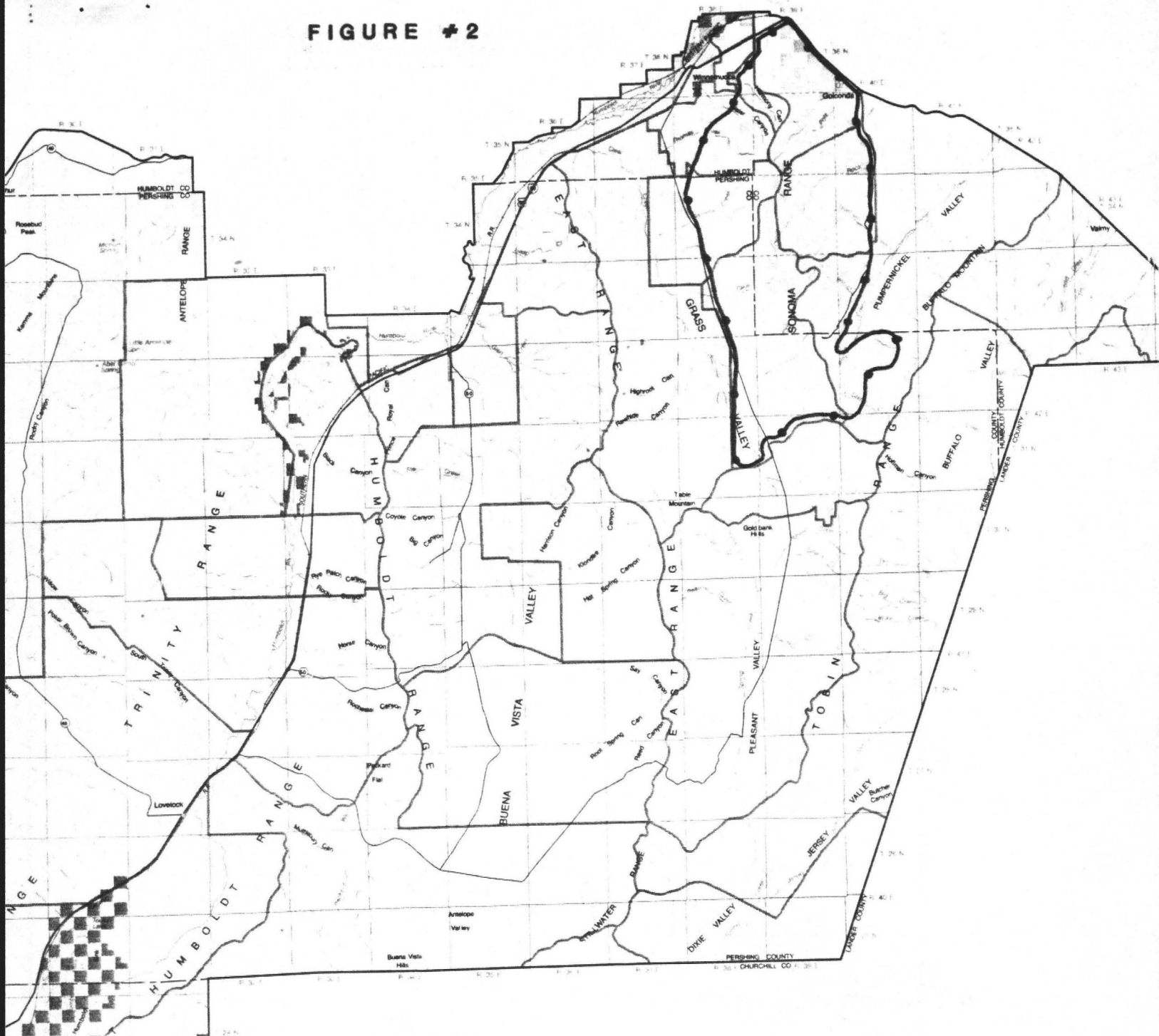
HERD USE AREA BOUNDARY



UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
BUREAU OF LAND MANAGEMENT
SONOMA-GERLACH ENVIRONMENTAL STATEMENT

GRAZING ALLOTMENTS

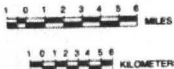
FIGURE #2



-  PUBLIC
-  PRIVATE
-  INDIAN RESERVATION
-  STATE
-  WILDLIFE REFUGE
-  HERD USE AREA BOUNDARY
-  WATER AND POWER RESOURCES SERVICE

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
 BUREAU OF LAND MANAGEMENT
 SONOMA-GERLACH ENVIRONMENTAL STATEMENT

LAND STATUS



HERD USE AREA BOUNDARY

WHB 1.3

DISTRICT MANAGER'S DECISION - WILD HORSE AND BURRO PROGRAM -
CHECKERBOARD LANDS

"Remove wild horses and burros from the checkerboard Herd Use Areas (HUAs) unless a cooperative agreement providing for the retention and protection of wild horses and burros is consummated with the affected private landowner(s). Cooperative agreements have not been obtained on the following areas and wild horses should be removed."

<u>Herd Use Areas</u>	<u>Present Est. Numbers* of Horses & Burros To Be Removed</u>
1. Sonoma	329
2. Humboldt	416
2. Trinity	300
4. East Range	350
5. Antelope	251/23
6. Truckee	83
Totals	<u>1,729/23</u>

*As of July 1, 1982.

B. Purpose and Need

The existing wild horse and burro population in the Sonoma Range HUA exceeds the AML. This action is being taken to reduce the Wild Horse & Burro population to the AML. This action is in conformance with the MFP.

C. Proposed Action

The proposed action is to remove approximately 391 wild horses from the Sonoma Range HUA. This action would reduce the population to the Appropriate Management Level of 0 horses as outlined in the LUP decision.

If the proposed action takes place as scheduled, it would be held in the fall of 1985 and take approximately one month to complete.

Implementation of the gathering plan will involve the construction of temporary traps with deflector wings, the movement of horses by a contracted helicopter and horse riders, the transportation of horses from the traps to temporary holding corrals, the holding of horses in the temporary corrals, and the transportation of horses to the Palomino Valley Wild Horse and Burro Placement Center.

D. Alternatives

The Sonoma-Gerlach Grazing EIS analyzed four different alternatives to the proposed action: (1) no livestock grazing, (2) no action, (3) maximize livestock grazing, and (4) maximize wild horse and burro grazing. The alternatives outlined in the Sonoma-Gerlach FEIS were discussed in detail. The analysis was subject to an extensive scop-

ing process, public meetings, formal hearings, and protest periods. In an effort to avoid repetition, an analysis of these alternatives will not be reiterated in this document, but can be found in the Sonoma-Gerlach Grazing EIS in the Winnemucca District Office files.

II. Affected Environment

Because of the geographic proximity of the Sonoma Range HUA to the East Range HUA (see Figure 3), the description of the affected environment, the anticipated impacts of the proposed action on the environment, and the possible mitigating measures of the proposed action will be the same as those discussed in the East Range Horse Gathering EA No. NV-020-7-46, located in the Winnemucca District Office Files.

III. Persons, Groups, and Agencies Consulted

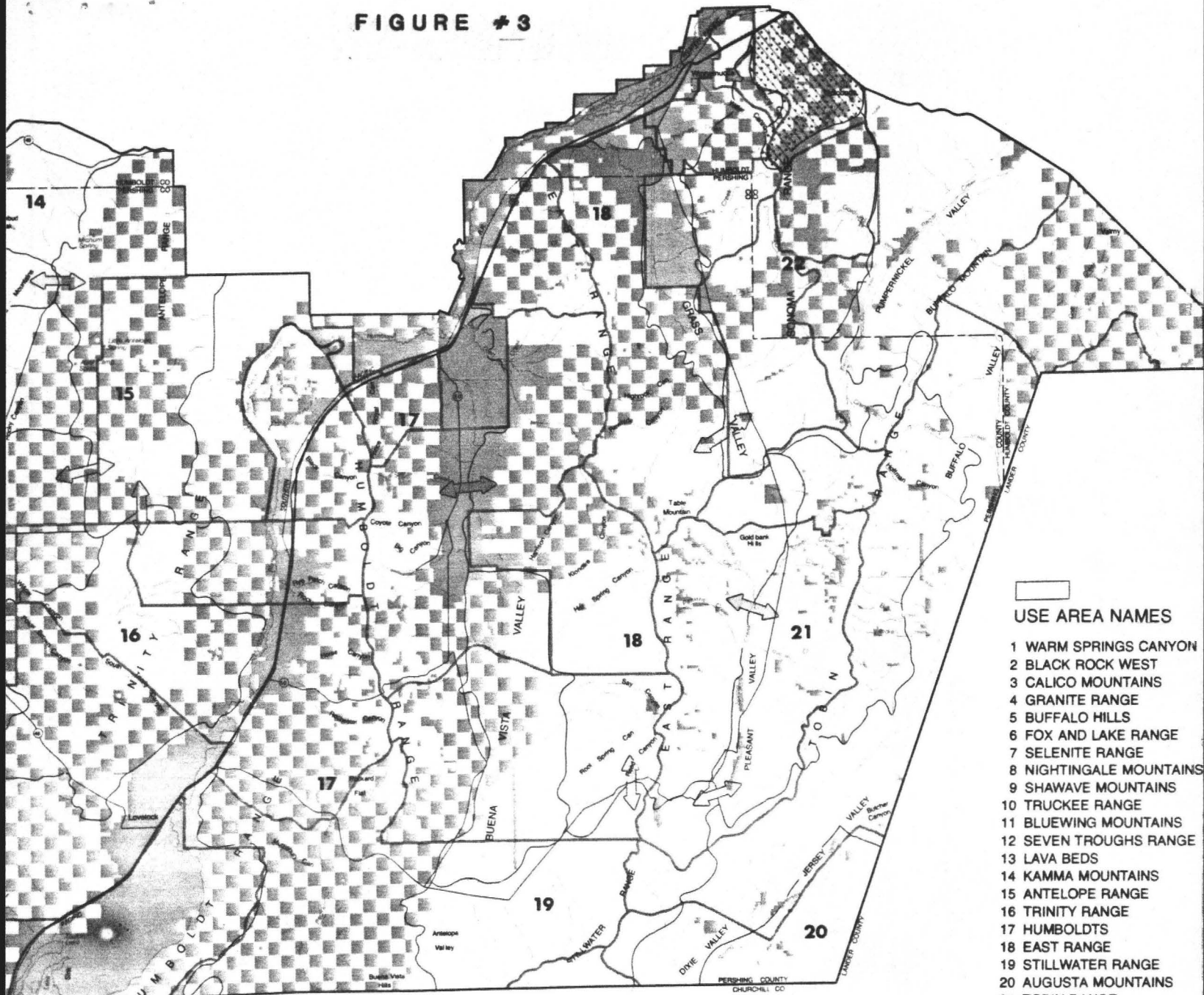
A letter was sent to the following groups and individuals describing the circumstances that led to the formulation of the proposed action.

American Horse Protection Association, Washington, D.C.
American Humane Association, Denver, CO
Animal Protection Institute, Sacramento, CA
National Mustang Association, Newcastle, UT
Fund For Animals, New York, NY, and Phoenix, AZ
International Society For the Protection of Mustangs and Burros, Reno, NV
U.S. Humane Society, Washington, D.C.
National Wild Horse Association, Las Vegas, NV
Wild Horse Organized Assistance, Reno, NV
Save the Mustangs, Rockwood, PA
American Bashkir Curely Register, Ely, NV
Humane Society of Nevada, Las Vegas, NV
Nevada Humane Society, Sparks, NV
Nevada Woolgrowers, Ely, NV
Nevada Cattlemen's Association, Elko, NV
Nevada State Clearing House, Carson City, NV
U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, Reno, NV
Pershing County Commissioners, Lovelock, NV
Pershing County Sportsmen Association, Lovelock, NV
Donald Molde, Sparks, NV,
Lovelock CRMP Committee, Lovelock, NV
Bill Casey, Winnemucca, NV
Ralph and Julia Aitken, Winnemucca, NV
Garley Amos, Jr., Winnemucca, NV
Ellison Ranching Company, Tuscarora, NV
Malvin Pedroli Estate, Winnemucca, NV
Roaring Springs Associates, Golconda, NV
SECO Nevada, Inc., King City, CA
Ether Westmoreland, Winnemucca, NV
G. & S. Cattle Company, Winnemucca, NV
Hugh A. Tipton, Winnemucca, NV





IV. Intensity of Public Interest

Nationwide, the wild horse program is very popular and there is much public sentiment to support keeping the present wild horse/burro numbers.

FIGURE #3



- USE AREA NAMES**
- 1 WARM SPRINGS CANYON
 - 2 BLACK ROCK WEST
 - 3 CALICO MOUNTAINS
 - 4 GRANITE RANGE
 - 5 BUFFALO HILLS
 - 6 FOX AND LAKE RANGE
 - 7 SELENITE RANGE
 - 8 NIGHTINGALE MOUNTAINS
 - 9 SHAWAVE MOUNTAINS
 - 10 TRUCKEE RANGE
 - 11 BLUEWING MOUNTAINS
 - 12 SEVEN TROUGHS RANGE
 - 13 LAVA BEDS
 - 14 KAMMA MOUNTAINS
 - 15 ANTELOPE RANGE
 - 16 TRINITY RANGE
 - 17 HUMBOLDTS
 - 18 EAST RANGE
 - 19 STILLWATER RANGE
 - 20 AUGUSTA MOUNTAINS
 - 21 TOBIN RANGE
 - 22 SONOMA RANGE

-  USE AREA WITHIN CHECKERBOARD LAND PATTERN
-  HERD MANAGEMENT AREA (PROPOSED ACTION ALTERNATIVE)
-  HERD MANAGEMENT AREA (MAXIMIZING WILD HORSE AND BURRO ALTERNATIVE)
-  SUSPECTED MOVEMENT PATTERNS

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
 BUREAU OF LAND MANAGEMENT
 SONOMA-GERLACH ENVIRONMENTAL STATEMENT

WILD HORSE AND BURRO USE AREAS



Statewide and locally, the general attitude toward wild horses is very different. The ranchers consider the horses, if left uncontrolled, a definite threat to the existence of their livestock operations. The Nevada Department of Wildlife and wildlife enthusiasts can see the competition they place on forage and water needed for game species.

The MFP III decision to remove wild horses/burros from HUAs in a checkerboard land pattern was protested by one group (Toiyabe Chapter of the Sierra Club) at the state level, but no one protested the decision at the national level.

V. Participating Staff and Signatures

The specialists who have signed the face sheet of this document have been involved in the development and review of the proposed project and concluded it would not significantly impact their resources.

Decision Record/Finding of No Significant Impact (FONSI)
No. NV-020-5-18

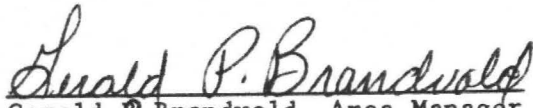
Decision Record

Based on the Environmental Assessment (EA) and the Management Framework Plan for the Sonoma-Gerlach Resource Area, a net beneficial impact to the total environment would result from implementing the proposed action; therefore, the proposed action is adopted in its entirety.

The mitigating measures identified in the EA will be adopted as stipulations.

FONSI

The EA adequately analyzes the environmental impacts of the proposed action. Since no significant impacts are expected as a result of implementing the decision, an EIS is not required.


Gerald P. Brandvold, Area Manager
Sonoma/Gerlach Resource Area

3-26-85
Date

For 
Frank C. Shields
District Manager

3/26/85
Date

U.S. DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR

BUREAU OF LAND MANAGEMENT

Winnemucca District Office

WILD HORSE/BURRO MANAGEMENT

4740

Paradise-Denio and Sonoma-Gerlach Resource Areas

BLACK ROCK RANGE, EAST AND WEST,
WARM SPRINGS CANYON, AND
CALICO MOUNTAIN

GATHERING PLAN

I. Introduction

The intent of this gathering plan is to outline the methods and procedures to be used in removing approximately 646 wild horses and three wild burros from the Black Rock Range, East and West, Warm Springs Canyon, and Calico Mountain Herd Use Areas (HUAs). The gathering operation is scheduled to take place between July 1, 1985, and September 30, 1985, and should take approximately one month to complete.

II. General Area Description-Background Data

The HUAs are located approximately 100 miles northeast of Reno, Nevada (see Attachment 1). The mountains have a north-south orientation. The area under consideration is approximately 40 miles long and 25 miles wide. Elevations range from a high of 8,508 feet at Pahute Peak in the Black Rock Range to a low of 4,140 feet along Meadow Creek located between the Black Rock Range and the Calico Mountains.

The vegetation in the HUAs is characterized by salt desert shrub types at the lower elevations, turning to sagebrush types as the elevation increases with pockets of aspen and mountain mahogany types at the higher elevations.

The area to be considered for the wild horse and burro gathering consists of all the Soldier Meadows, Paiute Meadows, and part of the Leadville Allotments (see Attachment 2). The Soldier Meadows and Leadville Allotments are located in the Buffalo Hills Planning Unit of the Sonoma-Gerlach Resource Area. The Paiute Meadows Allotment is located in the Denio Planning Unit of the Paradise-Denio Resource Area.

Land status is as follows:

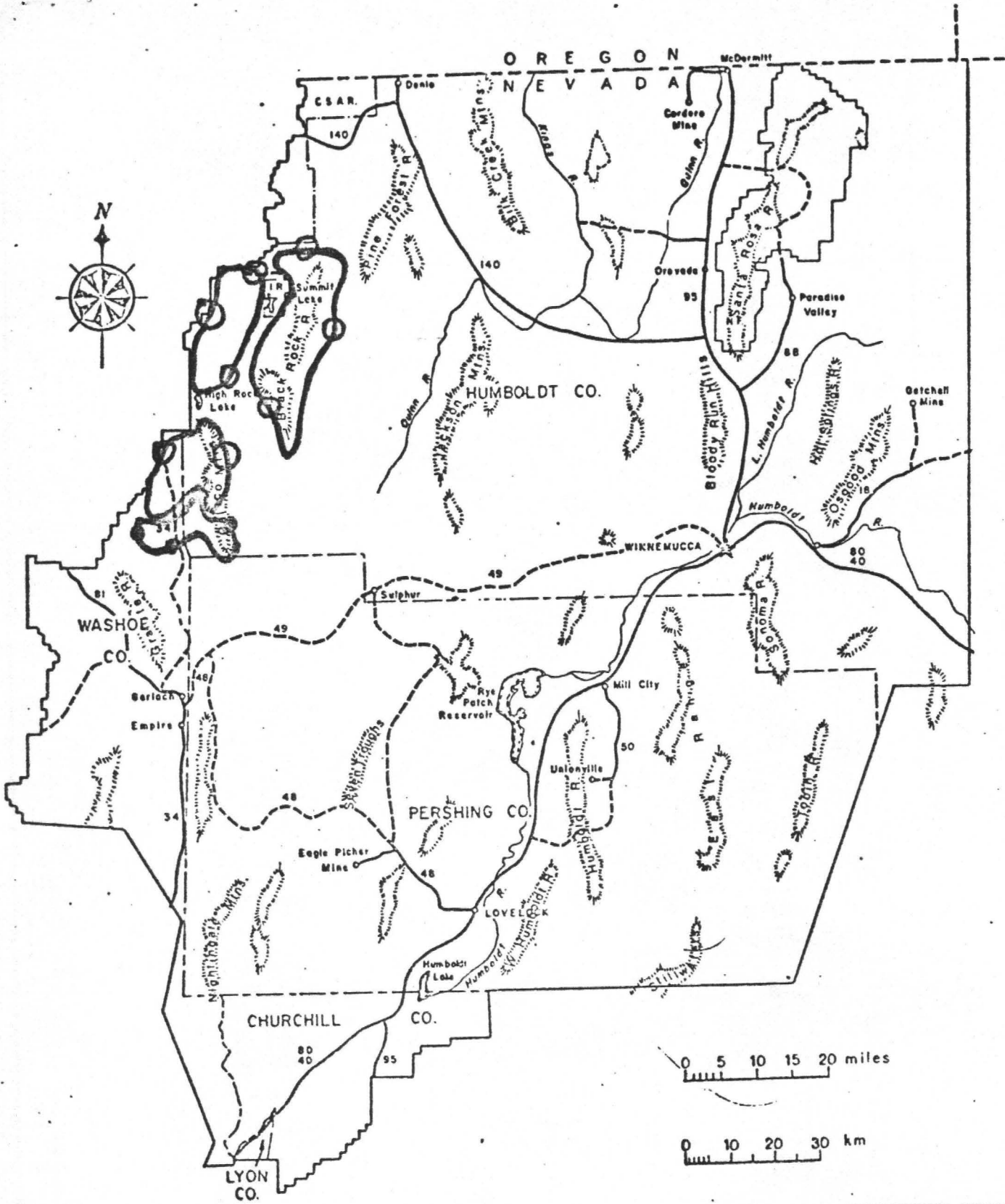
TABLE 1.

<u>Allotment</u>	<u>Public Land (%)</u>	<u>Private Land (%)</u>	<u>Total Acres</u>
Soldier Meadows	316,354 Acres (97)	11,172 Acres (3)	327,526
Leadville	54,572 Acres (96)	1,989 Acres (4)	56,561
Paiute Meadows	177,093 Acres (97)	5,176 Acres (3)	182,269

A wild horse and burro inventory was conducted during June and July of 1980 with a Bell 47G3B-1 helicopter in the Black Rock Range, East and West, and the Warm Springs Canyon HUAs. The Calico Mountain HUA was inventoried in August 1983 with a Bell 47G3B-1 helicopter. The results were used to estimate the current population, which follows. Also included are the appropriate management level (no. to remain) and number to be removed.

TABLE 2.

<u>Allotment</u>	<u>Estimated Population</u>		<u>AML</u>			
	<u>Horses</u>	<u>Burros</u>	<u>Number To Remove</u>		<u>Number To Remain</u>	
			<u>Horses</u>	<u>Burros</u>	<u>Horses</u>	<u>Burros</u>
Soldier Meadows	1,357	13	522	3	835	10
Paiute Meadows	87	0	28	0	59	0
Leadville	344	0	96	0	248	0
TOTAL	1,788	13	646	3	1,142	10



BUFFALO HILLS GATHERING PLAN

BLACK ROCK, WARM SPRINGS CANYON AND CALICO MOUNTAIN GATHERING PLAN

Round Mtn

Denio

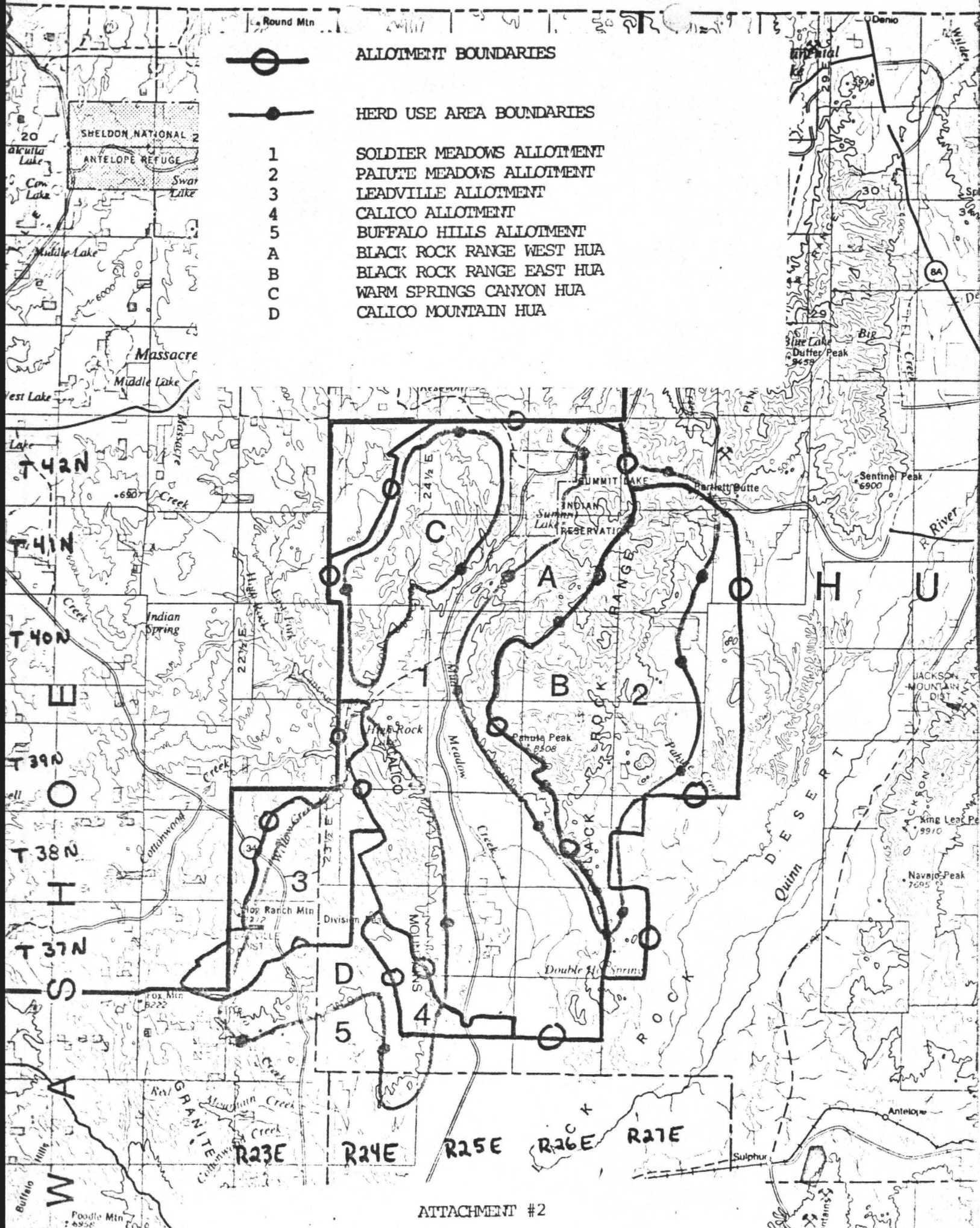


ALLOTMENT BOUNDARIES



HERD USE AREA BOUNDARIES

- 1 SOLDIER MEADOWS ALLOTMENT
- 2 PAIUTE MEADOWS ALLOTMENT
- 3 LEADVILLE ALLOTMENT
- 4 CALICO ALLOTMENT
- 5 BUFFALO HILLS ALLOTMENT
- A BLACK ROCK RANGE WEST HUA
- B BLACK ROCK RANGE EAST HUA
- C WARM SPRINGS CANYON HUA
- D CALICO MOUNTAIN HUA



The area supports a small population of mule deer, antelope, and a low density population of chukar, sage grouse, mourning dove, and valley quail, based on figures supplied by the Nevada Department of Wildlife.

III. Justification

Section 14 of Public Law 95-514, the "Public Rangelands Improvement Act of 1978," states that the Secretaries of Interior and Agriculture shall "determine appropriate management levels of wild free-roaming horses and burros on areas of public lands; and determine whether appropriate management levels should be achieved by the removal or destruction of excess animals, or other options (such as sterilization or natural controls on population levels)."

A land use plan has recently been developed for the Paradise-Denio and Sonoma-Gerlach Resource Areas. A major portion of this plan was the preparation and publication of the Grazing Environmental Impact Statements which analyzed five different alternatives to manage public lands: (1) distribute available vegetation to livestock, wildlife, and wild horses/burros; (2) no action; (3) no livestock grazing, (4) maximize livestock; and (5) maximize wild horses/burros. The final analysis culminated with the issuance of the Winnemucca District Manager's Management Framework Plan (MFP) Step III Decisions on June 30, 1982. The decisions received the State Director's concurrence on July 9, 1982.

The MFP III WH/B decision number 1.1 provides for the retention and management of wild horses/burros on non-checkerboard lands in the resource area. The decision stated that existing/current numbers (as of July 1, 1982) would be used as a starting point for monitoring purposes except where one of the following conditions exist:

1. Numbers are established by adequate and supportable resource data.
2. Numbers are established through the CRMP process as documented in CRMP recommendations and agreed to by the District Manager.
3. Numbers are established by formal signed agreement between affected interests.
4. Numbers are established through previously developed interim capture/management plans. Plans are still supportable by parties consulted in the original plan. EAs (EARs) were prepared and are still valid).
5. Numbers are established by court order.

At the present time none of the five above-mentioned conditions exist for the HUAs. Therefore, the appropriate management level for this area will be the estimated population numbers as of July 1, 1982, which is listed in Table 2.

IV. Capture Plan and Methods

Wild horses will be rounded up through the use of a helicopter. The horses will be directed toward temporary capture corrals by means of a helicopter. Wings (from 1/8 to 1/4 mile) will be constructed leading into the corral. When the horses have been driven to within 1/4 to 1/2 mile of the trap, riders on horseback will then flank the animals and guide them into the trap. Once the horses are in the trap the gate will be closed by hand. Should a horse break back at the trap, it will be roped, if possible, by the riders.

It is expected that the number of animals that are driven into the traps will vary from one to 35 horses at a time.

The capture corrals will generally be circular (100' in diameter) and constructed of approximately 90 to 100 portable panels (height 6' to 7'). Each trap will have in addition a small holding corral (100' in diameter) adjoining the trap. This corral will also be circular and constructed from portable panels. The trap will be camouflaged with sagebrush or juniper.

Captured horses will be loaded into stock trailers to be transported from the traps to the holding facilities.

Wings constructed or meant for restraint will be made from portable panels (6' to 7' high), but other devices used to turn horses will be made from white rope or ribbon stretched on 6 1/2' steel fence posts. The fence posts will be spaced from 50' to 100' apart, depending upon the terrain.

The helicopter will carry a Bureau employee when necessary and, should the horses become unnecessarily stressed, the BLM employee will instruct the pilot to break off the pursuit so that the animals may rest and recover. All attempts will be made to move and keep bands together.

A Bureau of Land Management employee will make careful determination of boundary lines to serve as an outer limit within which attempts will be made to herd horses to a given trap. Topography, distance, and current condition of the horses are factors that will be considered in setting the limits to avoid undue stress on the horses while they are being herded. Each area will be flown prior to the start of trapping to locate any hazards to the horses while being herded (fences, cliffs, etc.).

More than one trap site will be needed in the capture area. Each site will be located after the habits of the horses in that area are determined. In general, all sites will be located to cause as little damage to the natural resources of the area as possible. Sites will be located close to existing roads when possible, and all sites will be approved by a qualified Bureau employee.

As the horses are captured at the trap sites they will be loaded onto gooseneck trailers or stock trucks and shipped to Palomino Valley or to temporary holding corrals in the area.

Branded or privately-owned animals whose owners are known will be impounded by BLM, and if not redeemed by payment of trespass and capture fees, will be sold at public auction. If owners are not known, the private animals will be turned over to the State for processing under Nevada estray laws.

The area adjacent to each trap site will be thoroughly worked by the helicopter until the authorized officer determines the trap should be moved to another location.

Captured horses that are obviously lame, deformed, or sick will be humanely disposed of at the trap site. If an animal has to be destroyed the carcasses will be placed in as inconspicuous a location as possible to minimize the visual impact. The carcasses will not be placed in the bottoms of drainages and will be scattered so as not to concentrate them in one area.

Any horses that have been moved to the temporary holding corrals will be shipped by single deck trucks only, as transportation is available, to the Bureau's Palomino Valley corral facility.

The sole responsibility of the gathering crew is to capture the wild horses/burros in the safest and most humane manner. The district authorized officer will make the determination as to which horses will be shipped to the Palomino Valley corral facility and which horses will be released for study purposes or humanely destroyed at the trap site by a qualified Bureau employee.

Any transportation of captured animals will be subject to the following humane procedures as outlined in CFR section 4740.2(b) (1-5) and 4740.2(c):

- (1) All such transportation shall be in compliance with appropriate State and Federal laws and regulations applicable to the humane transportation of horses and burros.
- (2) 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 of injury.
- (3) Vehicles shall be inspected and approved by an authorized officer prior to use.
- (4) Where necessary and practical, 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.
- (5) The authorized officer shall consider the condition of the animals, weather conditions, type of vehicles, and distance to be transported when planning for the movement of captured animals.

- (c) The transportation of wild free-roaming horses and burros shall be under humane conditions. Unless otherwise approved by the authorized officer, transportation shall be limited, in sequence, to a maximum of 24 hours followed by a minimum of five hours of on-the-ground rest with adequate feed and water.

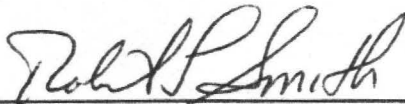
V. Stipulations For Gathering

1. Archeological clearance will be done on all trap sites prior to their construction. If archeological values are present, trap sites will be moved. Traps will not be placed near any of the identified historic sites. The Nevada Division of Historic Preservation and Archeology will be notified before any action is taken.
2. All corral panels will be from 72" to 84" high in order to prevent horses from jumping out of traps.
3. Brutality to horses in any form will not be tolerated. Any person who mistreats any horse will be dismissed immediately from the roundup operation.
4. The helicopter shall be under the direct supervision of a duly authorized BLM employee. He must be able to communicate with the pilot and be able to direct the use of the helicopter so as to observe the effects on the well being of the animals.
5. Only experienced horseback riders will be used in the gathering operations.
6. All saddle horses will be properly shod and over three years in age. All saddles and tack will be in good repair.
7. Only experienced drivers will be used to transport the horses to the holding facilities.
8. The helicopter will have radio communication with the Authorized Officer or his designated representative at all times.
9. The United States Fish and Wildlife Service and the Nevada Department of Wildlife will be notified before any action is taken.
10. Disturbed ground around each trap site will be rehabilitated in such a manner that is determined feasible by the District Specialist.
11. A qualified Bureau employee will clear all sites prior to construction, to insure that a trap will not significantly impact any Federal or State listed or proposed threatened or endangered sensitive plant species. If significant disturbance is anticipated, the trap site will be moved.
12. A veterinarian will be on call at all times during the roundup operation. The veterinarian will never be more than 100 miles from the roundup operation. In an emergency, the veterinarian could be helicoptered in, arriving in one to one and a half hours.

13. Every effort will be made to locate a trap near existing horse trails so that once the animals are started towards the capture area they will be able to pick a natural route and proceed at their own pace.
14. Allowance are made for high temperatures so that horses are not driven long distances in hot conditions.
15. Generally, captured animals shall not be held in traps or temporary holding facilities more than 24 hours prior to transportation to Palomino Valley. Horses held for 10 hours or more in the traps and/or holding facilities will be provided fresh clean water and good quality hay.
16. Roping will be done only at the direction of the authorized officer. Under no circumstances will horses be tied down for more than one hour.
17. No activity will be allowed in areas where sensitive, threatened, or endangered plants or animal species occur.
18. All activities within WSAs will be in compliance with the Interim Management Policy. Traps within the WSA will be placed on roads or ways and allowed to extend no more than 50 feet on either side of the road or way. Cross-country travel would be allowed so long as it does not cause impacts inconsistent with the requirements of the nonimpairment criteria outlined in the IMP.

VI. Signatures

Lead responsibility:

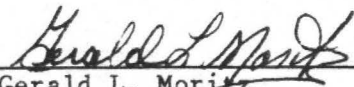


Robert L. Smith
Range Conservationist

3/19/85

Date

Reviewed by:



Gerald L. Moritz
Environmental Coordinator

26 March 85

Date



Richard D. Wheeler
District Wild Horse/Burro Specialist

3-19-85

Date

Gerald P. Brandvold
Gerald P. Brandvold
Sonoma-Gerlach Resource Area Manager

3-26-85
Date

David B. Griggs
David B. Griggs
Paradise-Denio Resource Area Manager

3-26-85
Date

Submitted to State Director by:

For Robert J. Neary
Frank C. Shields
District Manager, Winnemucca

3/26/85
Date

Approved by:

E. F. Spang
Edward F. Spang
State Director

1/28/86
Date