



United States Department of the Interior

BUREAU OF LAND MANAGEMENT
WINNEMUCCA DISTRICT OFFICE
705 East 4th Street
Winnemucca, Nevada 89445



IN REPLY REFER TO:

June 23, 1987

4700
(NV-023.5)

Commission for the Preservation
of Wild Horses
c/o Terri Jay, Executive Director
625 Fairview, Suite 111
Carson City, NV 89701

Dear Mr. Jay:

Due to a shift in state-wide funding priorities, the draft wild horse removal plan you received for the Lava Beds/Seven Troughs Subunit is amended as follows:

The draft proposal is now called the Blue Wing Wild Horse and Burro Removal Plan.

I. Introduction

The intent of this removal (gathering) plan is to outline the methods and procedures to be used in removing approximately 1,777 wild horses and 23 burros from seven Herd Management Areas (HMAs) and three Herd Areas (HAs) from the Blue Wing Planning Unit. Refer to the attached maps for specific locations and to II. C. for additional specifics. The removal operation is scheduled to begin about September 1, 1987, and be completed by November 15, 1987.

II. General Area Description-Background Data

Section II.A. of the draft you received is deleted in its entirety and the following information is added.

- A. The southern end of the planning area is located approximately 40 air miles northeast of Reno, Nevada. The area is approximately 75 miles long and 45 miles wide (see Figure 1). Elevations range from 4,000 - 8,300 feet in the planning area.

Seven of the eight HMAs are located within the Blue Wing/Seven Troughs Coordinated Resource Management and Planning (CRMP) area. The other (Trinity Range) HMA is located in the near vicinity of the Seven Troughs and Kamma Mountains HAs and lies within the checkerboard land ownership pattern.

The vegetation in the area is characterized by juniper-sagebrush types in the higher elevations, to sagebrush-grass types at moderate elevations, to shadscale-shrub and greasewood types in the valley bottoms.

The area to be considered for the wild horse and burro gathering consists of all or part of seven separate allotments: Blue Wing, Rye Patch, Coal Canyon-Poker, Ragged Top, Seven Troughs, Majuba and Desert Queen. The allotments are located in the Blue Wing Planning Unit of the Sonoma-Gerlach Resource Area in the Winnemucca District.

Land status in the CRMP area is as follows:

<u>Public Land (%)</u>	<u>Private Land (%)</u>	<u>Total Acres</u>
1,279,299 Acres (85)	227,371 Acres (15)	1,506,670

There are nine mountain ranges within the boundary of the CRMP area: (1) Antelope Range, (2) Kamma Mountains, (3) Lava Beds, (4) Seven Troughs, (5) Selenite Range, (6) Blue Wing Mountains, (7) Nightingale Mountains, (8) Shawave Mountains, and (9) Truckee Range. The mountain ranges are typically separated by valley floors ranging from quite small (2-3 miles across) to extremely large (10-15 miles across). All of the Antelope Range and Truckee Range and a portion of the Nightingale and Shawave Mountains are in a checkerboard land pattern.

Land status in the Trinity Range is 46,215 acres of private land (34%) and 89,712 acres of public land (66%).

II. B. Delete the last sentence.

II. C. Population Data

The draft removal is amended to include the additional numbers listed below.

The proposed removal would occur in the following HMAs and HAs, and in the priority as listed in descending order.

<u>Herd Management Area/Herd Area Name</u>	<u>Appropriate Management Level (AML) Horses/Burros</u>	<u><u>1/1987</u> Estimated Population Horses/Burros</u>	<u>Proposed Number to be Removed Horses/Burros</u>
Antelope Range (HA)	0/0	422/4	422/4
Lava Beds (HMA)			
Seven Troughs (HMA)	640/104	1,731/122	1,091/18
Kamma Mtns. (HMA)			
Selenite Range (HA)	0/0	36/1	36/1
Trinity Range (HA)	0/0	29/0	29/0
Truckee Range (HA)	0/0	122/0	122/0

Shawave Mtns. (HMA)			
Nightingale Mtns. (HMA)	237/39	604/48	77/0
Blue Wing Mtns. (HMA)			
TOTAL	<u>877/143</u>	<u>2,944/175</u>	<u>1,777/23</u>

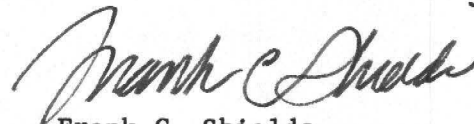
1/ The population estimates were derived using the BLM 4730 manual technique of calibrating an index from removal data in conjunction with pre- and past-capture censuses, and an 11% per year rate of increase.

The other two amendments to the draft Removal Plan concern maps and the comment period. For your reviewing purposes, the maps attached to this amendment are to be used along with the map you initially received. The end of the comment period has been extended from June 11 to July 10.

All other sections of the draft proposal that you received remain the same.

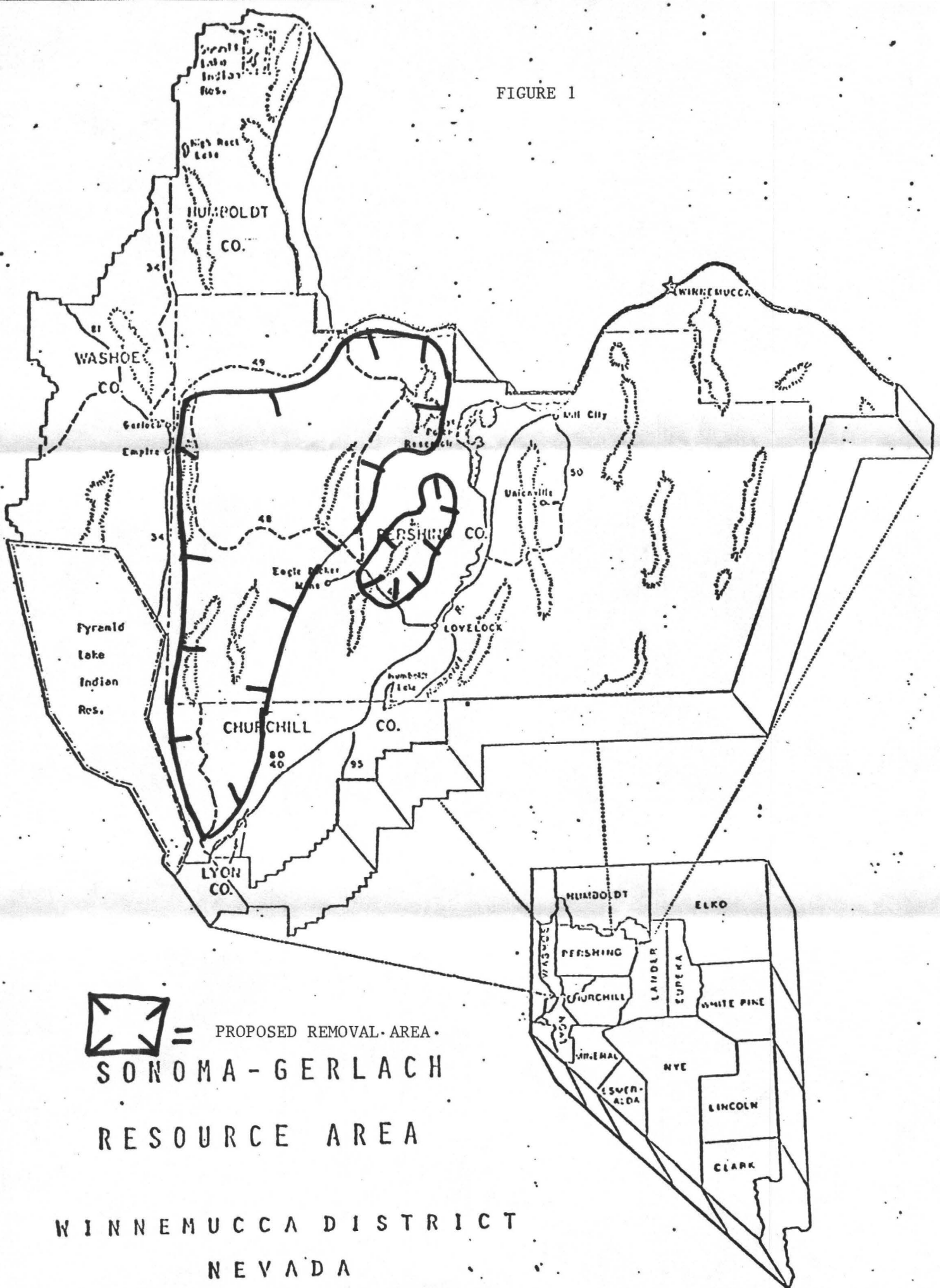
If you have any questions, please contact our office.

Sincerely yours,



Frank C. Shields
District Manager

FIGURE 1

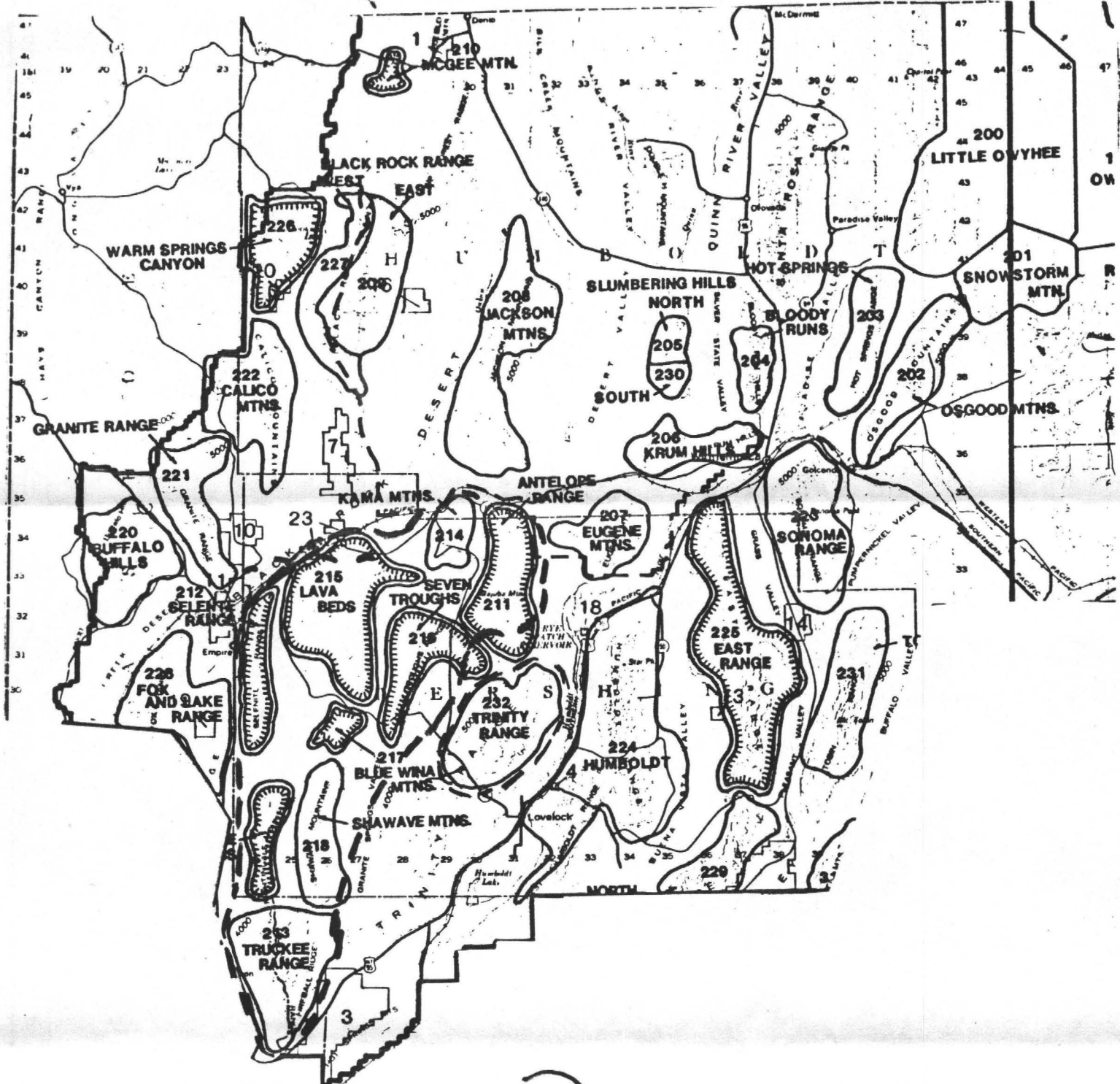





= PROPOSED REMOVAL AREA

SONOMA-GERLACH

RESOURCE AREA

WINNEMUCCA DISTRICT
NEVADA



-  WILD HORSE HERD AREAS
-  WILD HORSE AND BURRO HERD AREAS
-  PROPOSED REMOVAL AREA BOUNDARY