



# United States Department of the Interior

BUREAU OF LAND MANAGEMENT  
WINNEMUCCA DISTRICT OFFICE  
705 EAST 4TH STREET  
WINNEMUCCA, NEVADA 89445



IN REPLY REFER TO:

4700  
(NV-023.4)

August 29, 1989

International Society for the Protection  
of Wild Horses and Burros  
c/o Helen Reilly  
11790 Deodar St.  
Reno, NV 89506

Dear Ms. Reilly:

An aerial census was conducted in eleven Herd Management Areas (HMA's) this summer. A Bell 47 helicopter was utilized for the census. Ron Crowe of High Desert Helicopter Services was the pilot. The table below shows the results of the census.

HMA Name	Wild Horses Adults/Foals	Percent Foals	Total
Little Owyhee Desert	672/147	21.9	819
Snowstorm Mountains	90/18	20.7	108
Jackson Mountains	188/55	29.2	243
McGee Mountains	0/0	---	---
Black Rock Range-East	534/117	21.9	651
Black Rock Range-West	399/86	21.6	485
Warm Springs Canyon	420/106	25.2	526
Burros	19/1	05.3	20
Calico Mountains	756/131	17.3	887
Granite Range	652/124	19.0	776
Buffalo Hills	650/69	10.6	719
Fox and Lake Range	614/68	11.1	682

All of the seven Pinto horses, along with a number of the Buckskin and Palomino horses which were relocated to the Little Owyhee Desert HMA were observed. Progeny of these horses were also observed. All of the relocated animals were in excellent flesh condition, as were all of the wild horses observed in the Little Owyhee Desert and Snowstorm Mountains HMA's.

The animals observed and counted in the Jackson Mountains, Warm Springs Canyon, and the Black Rock Range (East and West), and Buffalo Hills HMA's also appeared to be in good to excellent flesh condition. The wild horses observed in the Fox and Lake Range and the Calico Mountains HMA's were in fair to good condition. A few of the foals in the Calico Mountain HMA showed signs of having tender feet. This condition could be attributed to the long distances between water sources.

Forage conditions were good to excellent in all HMA's except for the Buffalo Hills and Warm Springs Canyon HMA's. The forage in these HMA's was heavily utilized in certain areas. The forage in these two HMA's is utilized by both domestic livestock and wild horses. Utilization and use pattern mapping studies will be conducted in these HMA's this fall.

*Milt - Bob Neary thought you should know about this observation.  
What amenities do you provide at your chateau? - Food?  
Booze? Girls?*

Other on-going work efforts in the district's Wild Horse and Burro program are the finalization of one Herd Management Area Plan (HMAP) for the Buffalo Hills HMA, and initiation of one HMAP for the Black Rock Range (East and West) and Warm Springs Canyon HMA's; increased surveillance of HMA's by fixed-winged aircraft; increased monitoring (distribution and movement patterns) in all HMA's; utilization and use pattern mapping in all of the eleven HMA's (except McGee Mountain) shown above; and initiation of habitat improvement projects - primarily water.

If you have any questions, please contact our office.

Sincerely yours,

*Lon Wanker*

District Manager