

m 12/31/91

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
BUREAU OF LAND MANAGEMENT
Winnemucca District Office
705 East Fourth Street
Winnemucca, Nevada 89445

In reply refer to:

4700 (NV-248)
December 31, 1991

Memorandum

To: Black Rock East HMA Files
Scott Billing, Paradise-Denio Area Manager

From: David Stockdale, WH/B Specialist

Subject: Black Rock Range Wild Horse Census

On December 26, 27 and 28, 1991, I conducted an aerial census of the Black Rock East and West HMAs as well as lands south along the Black Rock Range to Black Rock Point and east into the Black Rock Desert to the Quinn River. See attached map for locations. Accompanying me was Mike Boyd of Winnemucca District Fire, who served as aircraft chief of party. The pilot was Jeff Cain of Skydance Helicopters of Minden, Nevada. The aircraft used was a Hughes 500-D four-passenger helicopter.

Census results showed a total of 1,168 horses (adults and colts) in the entire area, broken down by HMA as follows:

Area	Adults	Young	Total
Black Rock East HMA	529	18	547
North of Paiute Creek	180	7	187
South of Paiute Creek	349	11	360
Black Rock West HMA	367	21	388
Outside HMA boundaries	217	16	233
East side	173	13	186
West side	44	3	47
Totals	1113	55	1168

The total number of horses on the east side of the Black Rock Range (inside and outside the HMA) was 733; on the west side the total was 435. Figures for young animals are not as reliable due to difficulty in distinguishing between young-of-the-year and yearlings.

One dead horse was seen in the southern end of the range near Black Rock Point, approximate location T36N-R27E-18. The body had been scavenged but the animal appeared to have died from natural causes.

Weather conditions were excellent for flying all three days, with clear to slightly overcast skies, light winds and temperatures in the 40s. Snow cover was confined to higher elevations and presented no difficulty in locating horses. Pilot Cain is an extremely competent individual and the Hughes 500-D helicopter was well suited for the census with excellent visibility and handling characteristics. Approximate total flight time out of Gerlach, Nevada was thirteen hours (4 hrs 12/26, 7 hrs 12/27, 2 hrs 12/28).

David R. Storkel
12/31/91