



United States Department of the Interior

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



IN REPLY REFER TO:

August 24, 1987

4700/1791
(NV-023.5)

Wild Horse Organized Assistance
c/o Dawn Lappin
P.O. Box 555
Reno, NV 89504

Dear Ms. Lappin:

On May 28, 1987 a draft programmatic Environmental Assessment (EA) for the proposed removal of excess wild horses and burros in the Winnemucca District was mailed to you for your review, comments and suggestions.

Enclosed is a copy of the final EA for your records. All of the comments/suggestions we received were incorporated into the final EA and the final EA has been revised as follows:

I.A.1.

A paragraph was added mentioning those portions of the North Stillwater, Little Owyhee and Snowstorm Mountains Herd Management Areas (HMAs) located in the Carson City and Elko BLM Districts, but administered by the Winnemucca District.

A sentence was added explaining the difference between a HMA and a Herd Area (HA).

I.C.

A paragraph was added which defined how the Appropriate Management Level (AML) for the portion of the North Stillwater HMA located in the Carson City District was established.

A paragraph was added mentioning the Coordinated Resource Management Planning (CRMP) process and a reference to Appendix 1, which defines how AMLs were established in the Winnemucca District.

I.D.

The Population Data table was expanded to show HMAs vs. HAs and which HMAs were included in CRMP plans.

A foot-note was added explaining the discrepancies between the estimated population and AMLs for the McGee Mtn. and Tobin Range HMA.

I.E.

Deleted the word "contractor" from the second sentence of the third paragraph.

I.F.2.

The word "regulation" was substituted for the word "policy" in the second sentence of the third paragraph.

II.A.

Added a reference to the Lahontan Resource Management Plan.

II.B.

Added a reference to the Wilderness Study Areas (WSAs) located in the Carson City and Elko Districts.

A sentence was added that prohibits the construction of trap sites within the Little Humboldt WSA.

II.C.

A paragraph was added referencing WSAs in the Elko Resource Management Plan area.

III.A.

Added a sentence to the fifth paragraph concerning the possibility of impairment of air quality for the captured animals.

IV.D.

Deleted the word "should" and substituted the word "will".

IV.K.

Added the sentence--"Floors of vehicles and the loading chute shall be covered and maintained with a non-skid surface such as sand, mineral soil or wood shavings, to prevent the animals from slipping."

IV.M.

A paragraph was added regarding excessive dust conditions when transporting the animals.

IV.V.

A sentence was added to the first paragraph in the event a cultural site was located.

A paragraph was added referencing WSAs within the Elko Resource Area.

IV.W.

A paragraph was added referencing the Little Humboldt WSA and WSAs in the Elko Resource Area.

IV.X.

A sentence was added in case a threatened or endangered species was found.

Sincerely yours,

Robert J. Meany
for Frank C. Shields
District Manager

Enclosure

Bureau of Land Management

EA FACE SHEET

OFFICE: Winnemucca District Office FY & REPORT # NV-020-7-24
Winnemucca District Wild Horse/Burro Removal
ACTION: Programmatic Environmental Assessment NO. OF PAGES _____
(Project Name, Case Type, etc.) ment _____

LOCATION: District Wide SERIAL NO. N- _____

TEAM SIGNATURES:	TITLE	RESOURCE VALUES ASSIGNED	HOURS
<i>Dick Wheeler</i>	WH/B Specialist	Writer	<i>16.0</i>
<i>Dennis Tol</i>	Wildlife Biologist	Sensitive Plants	
<i>Regina Smith</i>	Archaeologist	Cultural Resources	
<i>Dennis Tol</i>	Wildlife Specialist		
<i>Lynn G. Clemon</i>	Outdoor Recreation Spec.	Wilderness	
<i>John J. [unclear]</i>	Outdoor Rec. Planner	Visual Resources	
<i>Frank [unclear]</i>	Range Staff Specialist	Range	
<i>Michael J. [unclear]</i>	District Soil Scientist	Flood plains, Wetlands, ACEC, Soil, Water & Air	

ENVIRONMENTAL COORDINATOR: *Gerald L. [unclear]* *30 July 87*
(Signature) (Date)

COMPLIANCE OFFICER: *Dick Wheeler*
(Title or Name)

DISTRICT/AREA MANAGER _____
(Signature)

(Date)

Decision Record/Finding of No Significant Impact (FONSI)

No. NV-020-7-24

Decision Record

Based on the Environmental Assessment (EA) and the Management Framework Plan for the Sonoma-Gerlach Resource and Paradise-Denio Resource Areas, the Lahontan Resource Management Plan (Carson City District) and the Elko Resource Management Plan (Elko District), 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 Brandvold
Gerald P. Brandvold, Area Manager
Sonoma-Gerlach Resource Area

8-4-87
Date

Scott Billing
Scott Billing, Area Manager
Paradise-Denio Resource Area

August 4, 1987
Date

Tim Hartzell
Tim Hartzell, Area Manager
Elko Resource Area

August 11, 1987
Date

Mike Phillips
Mike Phillips, Area Manager
Lahontan Resource Area

8-18-87
Date

Winnemucca District Wild Horse/Burro Removal
Programmatic Environmental Assessment (EA)

No. NV-020-7-24

I. Description of the Proposed Action

A. Background Data

1. Location

This programmatic EA covers the entire Winnemucca District, and addresses all (see Section D, Population Data) of those wild horse and burro Herd Management Areas (HMAs) and Herd Areas (HAs) where excess wild horses and burros would be removed at some future date as funds permit. A HMA is a geographic area where wild horses and/or burros are to be managed as established in the LUP. A HA is a geographic area identified as having been used by wild horses and/or burros in 1971, but will not be managed for either wild horses or burros as determined through the LUP process. Refer to Attachment 2 for location of HMAs and HAs.

This EA is also applicable to the portion of the North Stillwater HMA located in the Carson City District (Lahontan Resource Area) and administered by the Winnemucca District. This EA is also applicable to those portions of the Little Owyhee and Snowstorm Mountains HMAs located in the Elko District (Elko Resource Area) and administered by the Winnemucca District.

B. Purpose and Need

The purpose and need of this programmatic EA is to determine and analyze the various methods of removing excess wild horses and burros from twenty-five individual HMAs and HAs. Future removals of excess wild horses and burros would not require the preparation and approval of a new EA, but would require approval of Removal (Gathering) Plans.

C. Relationship to Land Use Plan (MFP-III) and Coordinated Resource Management Planning Decisions

The Sonoma-Gerlach Land Use Plan (LUP) was approved on July 9, 1982. The Paradise-Denio LUP was approved on June 30, 1982. These two decision documents established Appropriate Management Levels (AMLs), HMA and HA boundary delineations for all the HAs and HMAs within the Winnemucca District, and for those portions of the Little Owyhee and Snowstorm Mountain HMAs located in the Elko District. Refer to Appendix 1 for applicable portions of these decision documents.

The AML for the portion of the North Stillwater HMA located in the Carson City District was established through the Carson City District's LUP process and specifically by the Lahontan Resource Management Plan.

The Winnemucca District LUP established AMLs for eight (Refer to Section D) of the HMAs through the Coordinated Resource Management Process. For additional information about the criteria used for establishing AMLs for non-checkerboard and checkerboard lands, refer to Appendix 1.

D. Population Data

<u>Herd Management Area/ Herd Area Name</u>	1987		Number to be Removed Horses/Burros
	<u>Estimated Population Horses/Burros</u>	<u>AML Horses/Burros</u>	
Antelope Range (HA)	422/4	0/0	422/4
Black Rock Range East (HMA)	585/0	59/0	526/0
Black Rock Range West (HMA)	611/0	424/0	187/0
Blue Wing Mtns. (HMA) (CRMP)	78/48	50/39	28/9
Buffalo Hills (HMA)	740/0	272/0	468/0
Calico Mtns. (HMA)	905/0	514/0	391/0
Eugene Mtns. (HA)	30/0	0/0	30/0
Fox and Lake Range (HMA)	548/0	434/1	114/0
Granite Range (HMA)	411/0	176/0	235/0
Jackson Mtns. (HMA)	245/0	215/0	30/0
Kamma Mtns. (HMA) (CRMP)	67/1	50/0	17/1
Lava Beds (HMA) (CRMP)	1,566/20	375/40	1,191/0
Little Owyhee Desert (HMA) (CRMP)	291/0	200/0	91/0
McGee Mtn. (HMA)	0/0	0/41	0/0 <u>1/</u>
Nightingale Mtns. (HMA) (CRMP)	258/0	87/0	171/0
North Stillwater (HMA)	170/0	82/0	88/0
Selenite Range (HA)	36/1	0/0	36/1
Seven Troughs (HMA) (CRMP)	98/101	215/64	0/37
Shawave Mtns. (HMA) (CRMP)	268/0	100/0	168/0
Snowstorm Mtns. (HMA) (CRMP)	109/0	50/0	59/0
Tobin Range (HMA)	5/0	19/0	0/0 <u>1/</u>
Trinity Range (HA)	29/0	0/0	29/0
Truckee Range (HA)	122/0	0/0	122/0
Warm Springs Canyon (HMA)	666/16	294/10	372/6
East Range (HA)	20/0	0/0	20/0
	<u>8,280/191</u>	<u>3,616/195</u>	<u>4,795/0</u>

1/ The estimated burro population is lower than the AML for the McGee Mtn. HMA. It is believed the burros migrated onto the Sheldon National Wildlife Refuge. There is no explanation why the estimated population in Tobin Range HMA is lower than the AML. An aerial census was conducted (by helicopter) in this HMA in 1985.

There will be no adjustments in AMLs unless indicated by an analysis of monitoring studies and then only after complete consultation and cooperation with all interested parties.

E. Proposed Action

The proposed action is to continue implementing the Land Use (MFP-III) Planning and CRMP decisions by removing excess wild horses and burros until AMLs have been reached for all HMAs and HAs. The removal operations would be a yearly process.

The removal of excess wild horses and burros would be accomplished by the use of a helicopter. The helicopter would locate the bands of wild horses/burros and drive them into temporary traps with the aid of mounted riders, when necessary.

The number of temporary trap and corral sites would vary for each HMA and HA, depending upon concentration and location of the animals. The site locations would be selected by BLM personnel. The trap and corral facilities would be constructed of portable panels. These facilities would be moved to different locations during the removal operations, and would be completely removed from the area after the contract has been completed.

Because of the movement of the animals, site specific locations of the traps and corrals cannot be pre-determined before the removals begin, therefore the specific locations would be determined on a case-by-case basis.

F. Alternatives

The three alternatives are (1) water trapping, (2) no action, and (3) removal of animals by mounted riders.

1. The removal of wild horses and burros by water trapping involves placing temporary corrals with one way gates at water sources.

Although this method is economical and has been proven successful in other locales, there are too many sources of water in the Winnemucca District for this method to be feasible. For this reason, this alternative will no longer be considered.

2. The no action alternative is not a realistic alternative. By law and regulation, the BLM has been directed to remove excess wild horses and burros. A no action alternative would not remove any wild horses or burros.
3. The removal of wild horses and burros by mounted riders as an alternative has been considered. This method involves people on horse back locating the animals, and trying to drive the wild animals into the portable trap.

Although it is possible to gather wild animals by this method, this alternative is dropped from further consideration because it is less effective in gathering animals than a helicopter, takes longer and is not cost effective, and is far more dangerous to animals and humans than the use of helicopter.

II. Description of the Existing Environment

A. Physical Resources

The physical resources (soil, water, air, topography, vegetation, wildlife, climate, etc) of all the HMAs and HAs are similar to each other, and are typical of the Northern Desert Biome. A detailed and comprehensive analysis of all resources that occur in the Winnemucca District is located in the Sonoma-Gerlach and Paradise-Denio Unit Resource Analysis, and in the Sonoma-Gerlach and Paradise-Denio Environmental Impact Statement documents. These documents are primary BLM data sources, and were used in the development of the Land Use Plan (MFP-III) decision making documents.

Information concerning that portion of the North Stillwater HMA situated in the Carson City District is contained in the Lahontan Resource Management Plan.

The use of helicopters in gathering excess wild horses and burros has been an accepted method in the Winnemucca District since 1977. Any impacts to the above resources that may occur by continuing to use a helicopter can be mitigated by standard operating procedures.

B. Wilderness Study Areas (WSAs)

There are fifteen WSAs that could be affected by the proposed action; thirteen in the Winnemucca District and one each in the Carson City and Elko Districts. Refer to Attachment No. 1 for WSA maps. There will be no trap sites constructed within the Little Humboldt WSA.

The use of aircraft for removing wild horses and burros from WSAs is consistent with the Interim Management Policy (IMP) and guidelines for public lands under wilderness review.

The Elko Resource Management Plan (RMP) states that all suitable portions of the WSAs in the Elko Resource Area have a "limited" designation. This means that all vehicular traffic is limited to existing roads and ways.

C. Visual Resources Management

Visual resources would not be affected by the proposed action since all structures are temporary.

D. Cultural Resources

Any impacts that might occur to cultural resources would be mitigated prior to removal operations. Refer to IV.V. for specifics.

E. Threatened and Endangered Species

The impacts that may occur to any identified threatened and endangered species would be mitigated prior to removal operations. Refer to IV.X. for specifics.

F. Floodplains, Wetlands and Areas of Critical Environmental Concern (ACEC)

There have been no sites identified which would be impacted by the proposed action.

III. Environmental Impacts

A. Proposed Action

The removal of excess wild horses and burros will be accomplished by the use of a contract helicopter and would result in minimal disturbance of vegetation as the animals are herded towards the temporary trap and corral.

After the animals have been captured, there would be some soil compaction and temporary loss of vegetation inside the trap and corral facilities. These impacts would be a result of trampling by the captured animals. Since the trap and corral facilities are only temporary (constructed for six days or less) and the surface area disturbed is minimal (one acre or less), no long term significant impacts to the soil or vegetative resources is anticipated. The total number of animals that are handled at each trap site will have an impact on how much disturbance is generated.

If not monitored properly, the use of a contract helicopter could cause undue stress to the animals -- especially to those animals which are already lame, sick or injured. The use of a helicopter could also cause foals to be separated from their mares, bands to split and may cause injuries to the animals.

The removal operations by a contract helicopter will occasionally be monitored by a BLM helicopter. The BLM helicopter could cause additional stress to the animals if not used correctly. Refer to section IV for mitigating measures. These measures would ensure that the BLM helicopter would not create any adverse impacts.

The quality of air would be impaired during the capture operation. This impairment would result from dust in the air as a result of driving the horses to the trap and milling action of the animals in the corrals. The milling action is of a short duration (less than 40 minutes) and there would be no significant impacts to air quality. The air quality for the animals may be impaired after they have been confined inside the trap.

The use of a helicopter to gather excess animals from within WSAs could cause impacts to the quality of WSA values provided that use is not properly regulated. The only impact that cannot be mitigated (see IV. W) is the noise caused by the helicopter when the aircraft is used within the WSA boundary. Although the helicopter would create noise within the WSAs, the noise factor is acceptable under the Interim Management Policy (IMP) and Guidelines for lands under wilderness review.

B. Impacts Caused from the Alternatives

The first alternative (water trapping) would probably cause less stress and the chance of injury to the animals. Water trapping would also result in less temporary damage to the vegetation -- the animal would use established trails when coming to the trap site. The noise factor within the WSAs would also be eliminated. Overall, this alternative would result in minimal impact to the environment.

The second alternative (no action) would result in an increase in the number of excess wild horses and burros beyond AMLs. A no action alternative could result in excess numbers reaching a population level that would be detrimental to the vegetative, water and soil resources of the HA, ultimately resulting in significant environmental degradation.

The third alternative (mounted riders) would have substantially greater adverse impacts upon the environment than using a helicopter. This method would increase the disturbance to the vegetative and soil resources, is far more dangerous to animals and humans, is less effective and would result in more foals without mares and split bands.

IV. Mitigating Measures

- A. The project helicopter actions may occasionally be observed by a government controlled helicopter. All actions of the government helicopter would be coordinated with the contractor to prevent interference with the project helicopter and contract operations to prevent any stress to the animals and to prevent injuries to humans.
- B. Horse handling should be kept to a minimum. Capture and transporting operations are exceedingly traumatic to the animals. Minimizing the handling would cause less stress to the animals, as well as provide a safer environment for the handlers.
- C. No gathering should be allowed after March 1, and before July 1 because of the potential stress to pregnant and lactating mares and the possibility of induced abortions. Gathering may be resumed after the peak foaling period and after the majority of the foals are grown enough to withstand the stress of gathering operations.
- D. Generally, horses and burros will not be run more than 10 miles during gathering operations depending on weather and environmental conditions.
- E. The contract helicopter shall be used in such a manner that bands or herds would remain together as much as possible.
- F. The rate of movement and distance the animals travel shall not exceed limitations set by the Contracting Officers Representative (COR) or Project Inspector (PI) who would consider terrain, physical barriers, weather, condition of the animals and other factors.

- G. A veterinarian would be on call during gathering operations.
- H. Contract helicopters would be used with caution. A qualified district BLM representative would be present during gathering attempts to insure strict compliance with the above handling limitations and contract stipulations.
- I. Captured horses that are obviously aged, lame, deformed, or sick would be humanely disposed of at the trap site as determined by the COR.
- J. It is estimated that a minimum of twenty-five trap locations would be required to accomplish the work. All trap locations and holding facilities must be approved by the COR or PI prior to construction. The contractor may also be required to change or move trap locations as determined by the COR or PI. All traps and holding facilities not located on public land must have prior written approval of the landowner.
- K. All traps, wings, and holding facilities shall be constructed, maintained and operated to handle the animals in a safe and humane manner. Traps and holding facilities shall be constructed of portable panels, the top of which shall not be less than 72 inches high, and the bottom rail of which shall not be more than 12 inches from ground level. All traps and holding facilities shall be oval or round in design. All loading chute sides shall be fully covered with plywood or like material. The loading chute shall also be a minimum of 6 feet high. All runways shall be a minimum of 20 feet long and a minimum of 6 feet high and shall be covered with plywood or like material a minimum of 1 foot to 5 feet above ground level. Wings shall not be constructed out of barbed wire or other materials injurious to animals and must be approved by the COR or PI. All crowding pens including the gates leading to the runways shall be covered with a material which prevents the animals from seeing out (plywood, burlap, etc.) and shall be covered a minimum of 1 foot to 5 feet above ground level. Floors of vehicles and the loading chute shall be covered and maintained with a non-skid surface such as sand, mineral soil or wood shavings, to prevent the animal from slipping.
- L. No fence modification will be made without authorization from the COR or PI. The contractor shall be responsible for restoration of any fence modification which he has made.
- M. When excessive dust conditions occur within or adjacent to the trap or holding facility, the contractor shall be required to wet down the ground with water at such location as directed by the COR or PI.

If the COR determines that dust conditions are such that the animals could be endangered during transportation, the contractor will be instructed to adjust speed. The maximum distance over which animals may have to be transported on dirt road is approximately 50 miles per load.

- N. Alternate pens within the holding facility shall be furnished by the contractor to separate mares with small foals, sick and injured animals, and stray animals from the other horses. Where required by the COR, animals shall be sorted as to age, number, size, temperament, sex, and condition when in the holding facility so as to minimize, to the extent possible, injury due to fighting and trampling.
- O. Animals shall be transported to final destination from temporary holding facilities within 24 hours after capture unless prior approval is granted by the COR or PI for unusual circumstances. Animals shall not be held in traps and/or temporary holding facilities on days when there is no work being conducted except as specified by the COR or PI.
- P. Animals held for 10 hours or more in the traps and/or holding facilities shall be provided fresh clean water by the contractor, in an amount of a minimum of 10 gallons per animal per day. Animals held for 10 hours or more in the traps or holding facilities shall be provided good quality hay at the rate of not less than two pounds of hay per 100 pounds of estimated body weight per day.
- Q. It is the responsibility of the contractor to provide security to prevent loss, injury or death of captured animals until delivery to final destination.
- R. The contractor shall restrain sick or injured animals so that they may be provided treatment by the COR or PI. The COR or PI would determine if injured animals must be destroyed and provide for destruction of such animals. The contractor shall dispose of the carcasses as directed by the COR or PI.
- S. The contractor must operate the helicopter in compliance with Federal Aviation Regulations, Part 91. Pilots provided by the contractor shall comply with the Contractors Federal Aviation Certificates, applicable regulations of the State of Nevada and shall follow what are recognized as safe flying practices.
- T. When refueling, the helicopter shall remain a distance of at least a 1,000 feet or more from animals, vehicles (other than fuel truck), and personnel not involved in refueling.
- U. The COR or PI shall have the means to communicate with the pilot and be able to direct the use of the gather helicopter at all times.
- V. A Cultural Resources inventory would be conducted prior to any construction of facilities, road maintenance, or any other work that may cause surface disturbance. If a cultural site is located, there would be no work conducted at that site.
- W. All temporary trap sites located within the WSA boundaries would be placed on existing roads and ways, not to exceed 50' either side of the access route. Cross-county travel would be allowed so long as

it does not cause impacts inconsistent with the requirements of the nonimpairment criteria outlined in the IMP.

The Elko Resource Management Plan states that all WSAs in the Elko Resource Area have a "limited" designation. There will be no trap sites constructed within the Little Humboldt WSA.

- X. All temporary trap sites and other manmade disturbances will be evaluated for the presence of threatened and endangered plant species. If a threatened or endangered species is observed, the facilities would be relocated.

V. 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 and 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.

VI. 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.

VII. Persons, Groups and Agencies Consulted

American Bashkir Cured Register, Ely, NV
American Horse Protection Association, Washington, D.C.
American Humane Association, Denver, CO
American Wild Mustang & Burro Foundation, Reno, NV
Animal Protection Institute, Sacramento, CA
Commission for the Preservation of Wild Horses, Carson City, NV
Fund For Animals, New York, NY and Phoenix, AZ
Humane Society of the U.S., Washington, D.C.
Humane Society of So. Nevada, Blue Diamond, NV
International Society for the Protection of Mustangs and Burros, Reno, NV
National Mustang Association, Inc., Newcastle, UT
National Wild Horse Association, Las Vegas, NV
Nevada Cattlemen's Association, Elko, NV
Nevada Federation of Animal Protection Organization, Las Vegas, NV
Nevada Humane Society, Sparks, NV
Nevada State Clearinghouse, Carson City, NV
Nevada State Department of Agriculture, Reno, NV
Nevada Woolgrowers, Ely, NV
Save The Mustangs, Rockwood, PA
U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, Reno, NV
Wild Horse Organized Assistance, Reno, NV
E. Tharalson and Lane Duncan, Inglewood, CA
Craig Downer, Minden, NV
Deborah Allard, Brunswick, Maine 04011

APPENDIX 1
Paradise-Denio MFP III
Wild Horses and Burros 1.1

As Currently Written:

WILD HORSE AND BURRO PROGRAM - NON-CHECKERBOARD LANDS

Establish wild horses and burro numbers 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.
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.

Paradise-Denio Resource Area

<u>Herd Use Area</u>	<u>Wild Horses/Burros</u>	
Owyhee-Bullhead	250/0	CRMP Numbers
Jackson Mountains	215/0	Existing Numbers
McGee Mountains	0/41	Existing Numbers
Black Rock Range East	59/0	Existing Numbers
<u>Herd Use Area</u>	<u>Allotment</u>	<u>Wild Horses/Burros</u>
Owyhee-Bullhead	Little Owyhee	200/0
	Bullhead	50/0
Jackson Mountains	Jackson Mountains	160/0
	Deer Creek	20/0
	Happy Creek	35/0
McGee Mountains	Alder Creek	0/41
Black Rock Range East	Paiute Meadows	59/0

APPENDIX 1

Change To:

The decision will remain as originally written.

Rationale:

43 CFR 4730.3 states:

The biological requirements of wild free-roaming horses and burros will be determined based upon appropriate studies or other available information. The needs for soil and watershed protection, domestic livestock, maintenance of environmental quality, wildlife, and other factors will be considered along with wild free-roaming horse and burro requirements. After determining the optimum number of such horses and burros to be maintained on an area, the authorized officer shall reserve adequate forage and satisfy other biological requirements of such horses and burros and, when necessary, adjust or exclude domestic livestock use accordingly.

The district does not have adequate supportable data upon which to establish the number of wild horses and burros to be maintained on each herd use area. Wild horses and burros must be considered comparable with other resource values in the development of resource management plans. Livestock, wild horses and burros would be kept at existing numbers as a starting point for monitoring purposes unless the conditions listed in the above decision existed. The monitoring program is being designed to determine what the proper stocking level for livestock, wild horses and burros is for each allotment. Adjustments in the numbers of animals to be grazed on each area will be determined through this monitoring process as outlined in Range Management Decision 1.1.

Persons-Organizations That Have Protested This Decision:

1. Nevada Division of State Lands, Carson City, Nevada.
2. Nevada Department of Agriculture, Carson City, Nevada.

APPENDIX 1
Sonoma-Gerlach MFP III
Wild Horses and Burros 1.3

As Currently Written:

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 and Burros To Be Removed</u>
1. Sonoma	330
2. Humboldt	375
3. Trinity	217
4. East Range	315
5. Antelope	226/21
6. Truckee	75
TOTALS	<u>1,538/21</u>

* Present numbers estimated from 1980 inventory assuming an 11% net increase per year.

Change To:

The decision will remain as originally written. Estimated numbers have been updated to reflect recent inventory and roundup data.

Rationale:

The HUAs designated for complete horse/burro removal are in a checkerboard land pattern. Landowners from each HUA have requested removal of wild horses/burros from their private lands. Section 4 of P.L. 92-195 directs the authorized officer to remove wild horses/burros from private lands at the owner's request.

Persons-Organizations That Have Protested This Decision:

Toiyabe Chapter, Sierra Club, Reno, Nevada.

APPENDIX 1
Sonoma-Gerlach MFP III
Wild Horses and Burros 1.1

As Currently Written:

WILD HORSE AND BURRO PROGRAM - NON-CHECKERBOARD LANDS

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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.

Sonoma-Gerlach Resource Area

<u>Herd Use Area</u>	<u>Wild Horses/Burros</u>	<u>Existing Numbers</u>
Buffalo Hills	272/0	"
Lava Beds	132/54	"
Fox and Lake Range	434/1	"
Warm Springs Canyon	294/10	"
Black Rock Range West	424/0	"
Seven Troughs	762/105	"
Granite Range	176/0	"
Calico Mountains	514/0	"
Selenite Range	12/1	"
Blue Wing Mountains	89/48	"
Tobin Range	19/0	"
Augusta Mountains	261/0	"
Kamma Mountains	38/0	"
Stillwater Range	52/0	"
Shawave-Nightingale	254/11	"

APPENDIX 1

<u>Herd Use Area</u>	<u>Allotment</u>	<u>Wild Horses/Burros</u>
Buffalo Hills	Buffalo Hills	272/0
Lava Beds	Blue Wing	85/54
	Seven Troughs	47/0
Fox and Lake Range	Rodeo Creek	334/1
	Pole Canyon	100/0
Warm Springs Canyon	Soldier Meadows	294/10
Black Rock Range West	Soldier Meadows	424/0
Seven Troughs	Seven Troughs	619/34
	Blue Wing	143/71
Granite Range	Buffalo Hills	176/0
Calico Mountains	Buffalo Hills	107/0
	Calico	42/0
	Leadville	248/0
	Soldier Meadows	117/0
Selenite Range	Blue Wing	12/1
Blue Wing Mountains	Blue Wing	89/48
Tobin Range	Goldbanks	0/0
	Pleasant Valley	0/0
	Pumpnickel Valley	17/0
	South Buffalo	2/0
Augusta Mountains	Jersey Valley	261/0
Kamma Mountains	Seven Troughs	38/0
Stillwater Range	Pleasant Valley	0/0
	South Rochester	36/0
	Rawhide	0/0
	South Buffalo	16/0
	Jersey Valley	0/0
	Cottonwood Canyon	0/0
Shawave-Nightingale	Blue Wing	254/11

APPENDIX 1

Change To:

The decision will remain as originally written.

Rationale:

43 CFR 4730.3 states:

The biological requirements of wild free-roaming horses and burros will be determined based upon appropriate studies or other available information. The needs for soil and watershed protection, domestic livestock, maintenance of environmental quality, wildlife, and other factors will be considered along with wild free-roaming horse and burro requirements. After determining the optimum number of such horses and burros to be maintained on an area, the authorized officer shall reserve adequate forage and satisfy other biological requirements of such horses and burros and, when necessary, adjust or exclude domestic livestock use accordingly.

The district does not have adequate supportable data upon which to establish the number of wild horses and burros to be maintained on each herd use area. Wild horses and burros must be considered comparable with other resource values in the development of resource management plans. Livestock, wild horses and burros would be kept at existing numbers as a starting point for monitoring purposes unless the conditions listed in the above decision existed. The monitoring program is being designed to determine what the proper stocking level for livestock, wild horses and burros is for each allotment. Adjustments in the numbers of animals to be grazed on each area will be determined through this monitoring process as outlined in Range Management Decision 1.1.

Persons-Organizations That Have Protested This Decision:

1. Nevada Division of State Lands, Carson City, Nevada.
2. Nevada Department of Agriculture, Carson City, Nevada.

APPENDIX 1
 Sonoma-Gerlach MFP III
 Wild Horses and Burros 1.3

As Currently Written:

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).

<u>Horse Use Areas</u>	<u>^{1/} Est. Numbers to be Removed</u>
Eugene Mountains	196*
Krum Hills	268
Slumbering Hills South	296
Osgood Mountains	166
Hot Springs Mountains	131
Lower Paradise Valley	20
Bloody Run Mountains	162

* Horses and burros

Present numbers estimated from 1977 inventory assuming a 14% survival rate.

Change To:

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.

<u>Herd Use Areas</u>	<u>^{1/} Present Est. Numbers* of Horses and Burros To Be Removed</u>
Eugene Mountains	114
Krum Hills	194
Slumbering Hills South	122
Osgood Mountains	33
Hot Springs Mountains	79
Lower Paradise Valley	20
TOTAL	<u>562</u>

* Present numbers estimated from 1980 inventory assuming a 14% net increase per year.

Estimated numbers have been updated to reflect recent inventory and roundup data.

^{1/} The numbers in these two columns are not the same due to population estimates based upon two different inventories, one in 1977 and one in 1980.

APPENDIX 1

WHB 1.4 (continued)

DISTRICT MANAGER'S DECISION

Remove wild horses and burros from the following 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.

<u>Horse Use Areas</u>	<u>1/ Est. Numbers to be Removed</u>
Eugene Mountains	196*
Krum Hills	268
Slumbering Hills South	296
Osgood Mountains	166
Hot Springs Mountains	131
Lower Paradise Valley	20
Bloody Run Mountains	162

* Horses and burros

Present numbers estimated from 1977 inventory assuming a 14% survival rate.

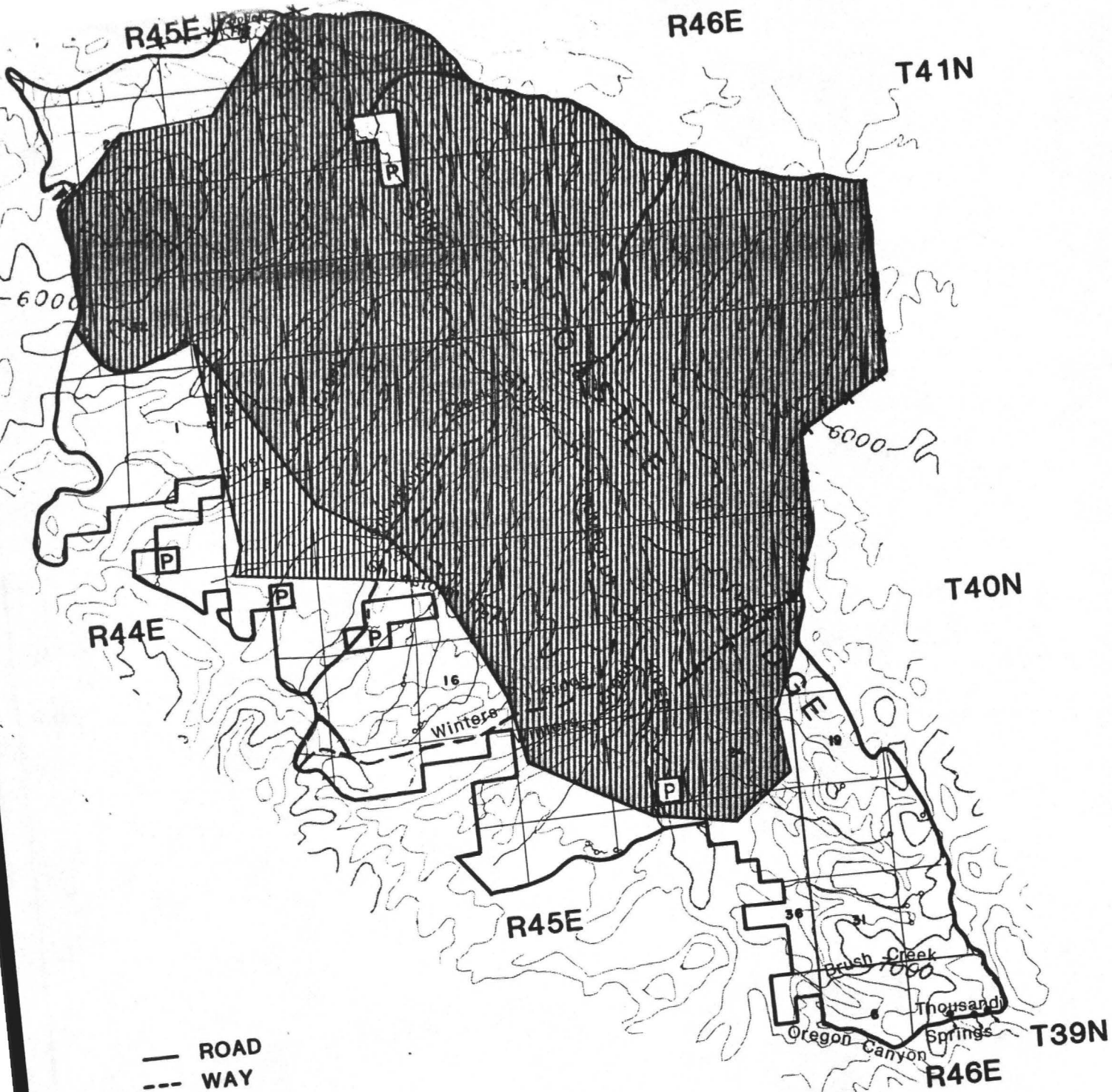
APPENDIX 1

Rationale:



The HUAs designated for complete horse/burro removal are in a checkerboard land pattern. Landowners from each HUA have requested removal of wild horses/burros from their private lands. Section 4 of P.L. 92-195 directs the authorized officer to remove wild horses/burros from private lands at the owner's request.

Persons-Organizations That Have Protested This Decision:

Toiyabe Chapter, Sierra Club, Reno, Nevada.



- ROAD
- - - WAY
- x-x FENCE
- ◀ RESERVOIR
- P PRIVATE LANDS
- NATURAL SPRINGS

ALTERNATIVE	SUITABLE
A	NONE
B	
C	ALL
D	
E	ALL

WILDERNESS STUDY AREA
LITTLE HUMBOLDT RIVER NV-010-132

NV-030-1

T24N

T23N

T22N

T21N

Stillwater Range

NV-030-104
WSA

V-030-104

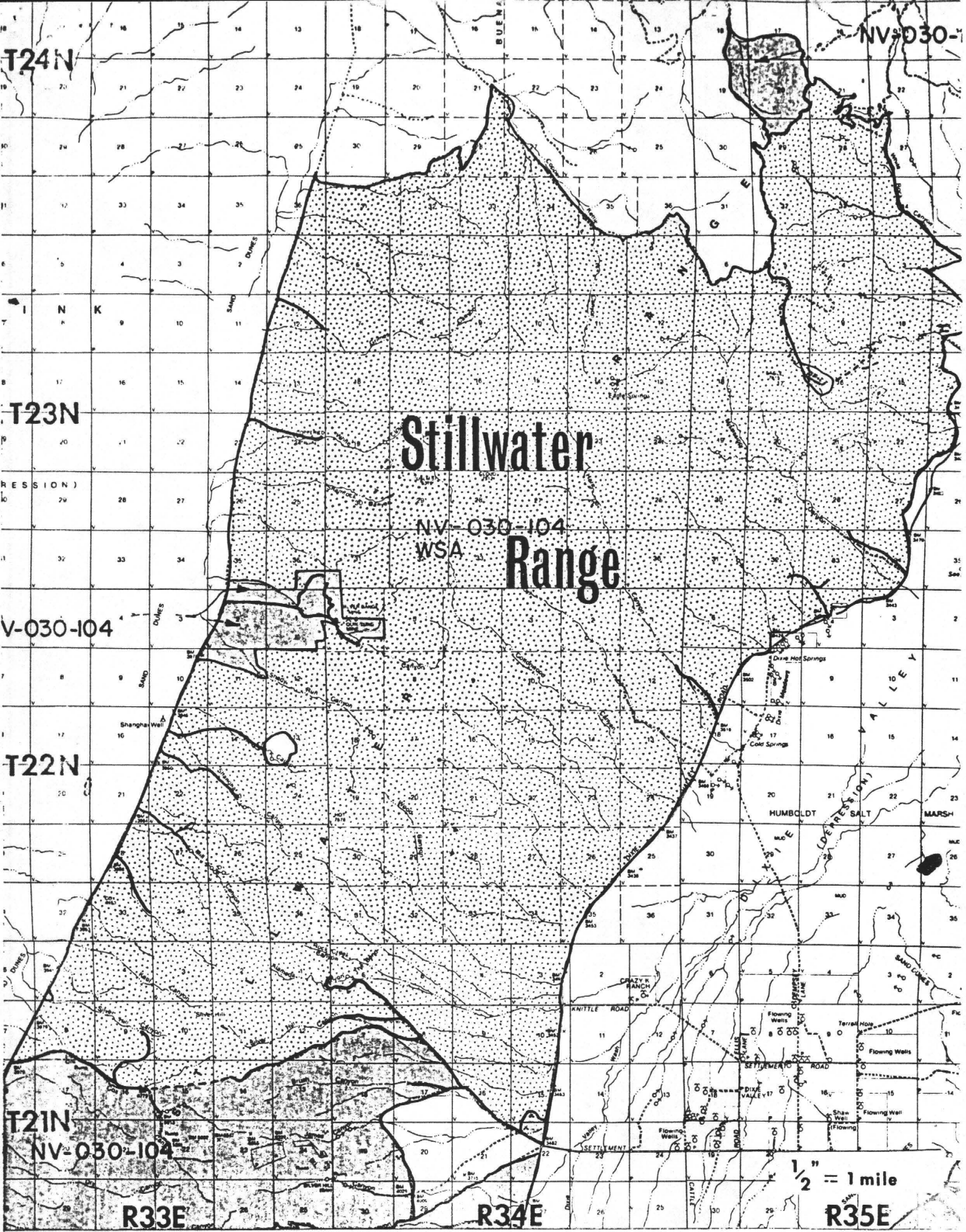
NV-030-104

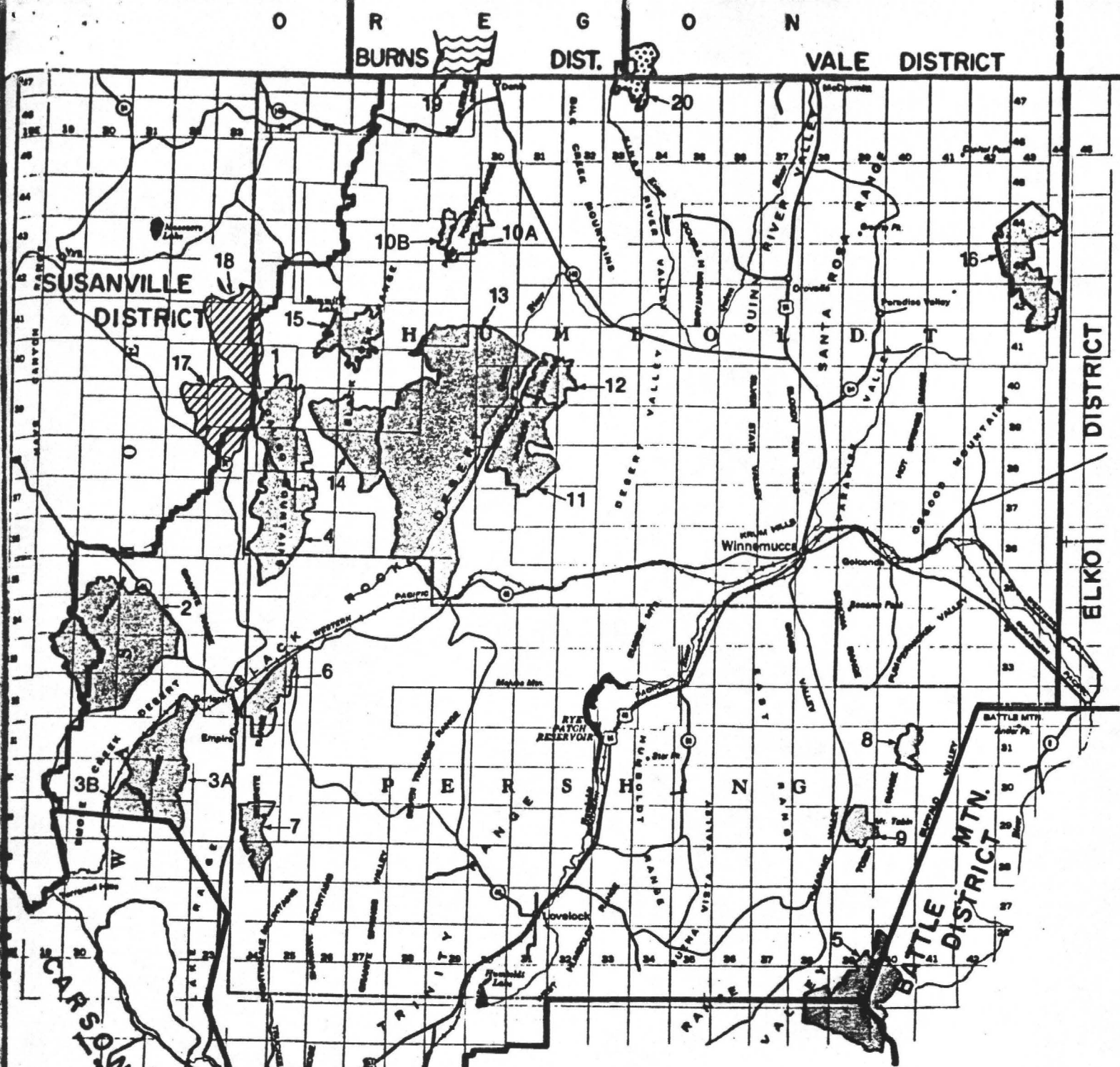
R33E

R34E

R35E

1/2" = 1 mile





— WINNEMUCCA DISTRICT BOUNDARY

▨ WINNEMUCCA DISTRICT WSAs

- | | |
|-------------------------------------|--|
| 1-HIGH ROCK LAKE NV.020-007 | 10A-BLUE LAKES NV.020-600 |
| 2-POODLE MTN. NV.020-012 | 10B-BLUE LAKES (ALDER CR.) NV.020-600D |
| 3A-FOX RANGE NV.020-014 | 11-SO. JACKSON MTNS. NV.020-603 |
| 3B-FOX RANGE (POLE CR.) NV.020-014A | 12-NO. JACKSON MTNS. NV.020-606 |
| 4-CALICO MTNS. NV.020-019 | 13-BLACK ROCK DESERT NV.020-620 |
| 5-AUGUSTA MTNS. NV.030-108 | 14-PAHUTE PK.(SO. BLK. ROCK) NV.020-621 |
| 6-SELENITES NV.020-200 | 15-NO. BLK. ROCK RANGE NV.020-622 |
| 7-MT. LIMBO NV.020-201 | 16-NO. FOR. LITTLE HUMBOLDT RIVER NV.020-827 |
| 8-TOBIN MTNS.(CHINA MT) NV.020-406P | |
| 9-TOBINS NV.020-406Q | |

▨ SUSANVILLE DISTRICT WSAs

- 17-LITTLE HIGH ROCK CANYON NV.020-008
- 18-HIGH ROCK CANYON NV.020-006A

▨ BURNS DISTRICT WSAs

- 19-PUEBLO MTNS. NV.020-642

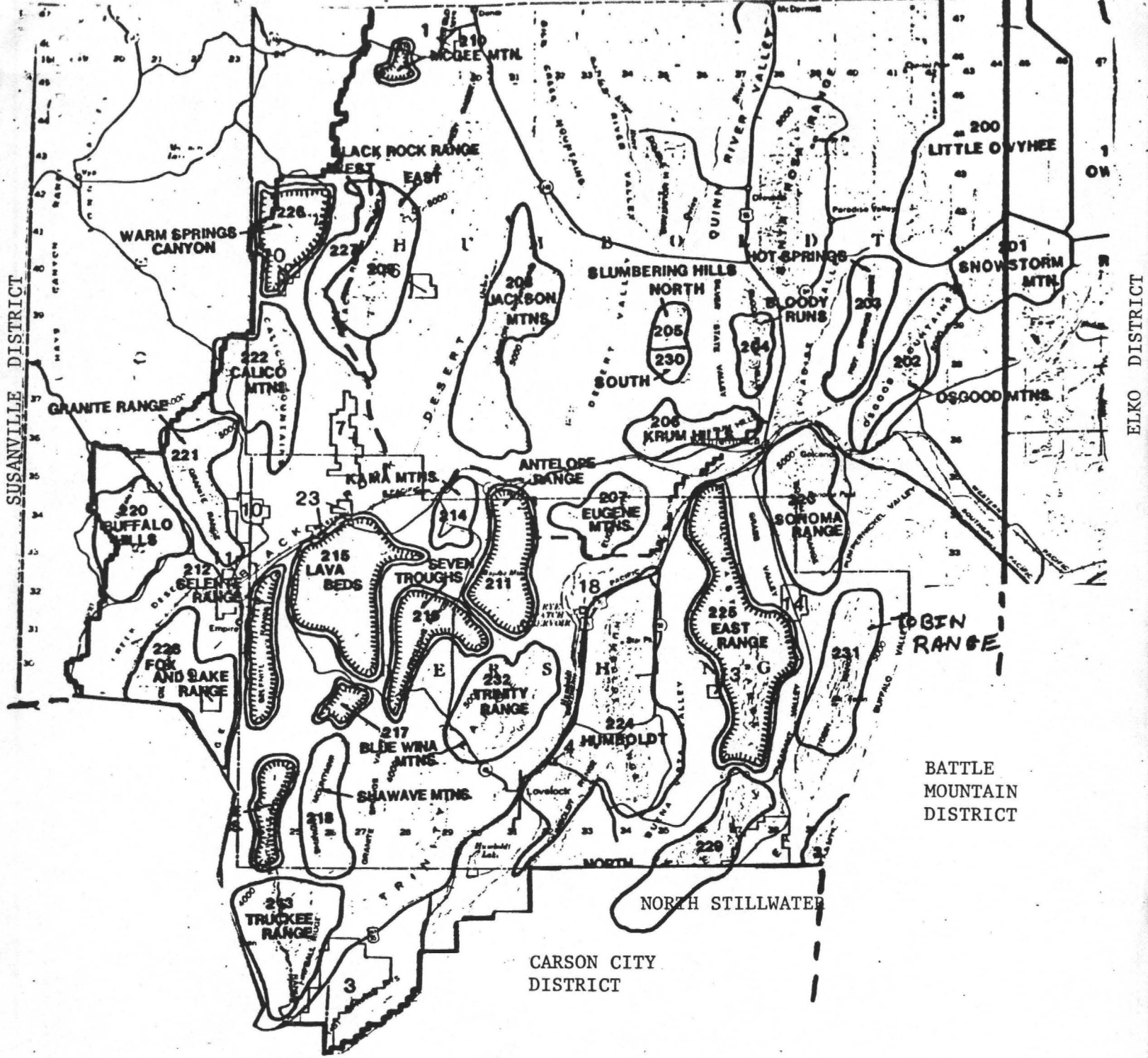
▨ VALE DISTRICT WSAs

- 20-DISASTER PK. NV.020-859



WINNEMUCCA DISTRICT



SCALE IN MILES



ATTACHMENT #2

-  = Wild Horse Herd Area Boundary
-  = Burro Herd Area Boundary and Wild Horse Herd Boundary