

✓ 4/1987

WILD HORSE CAPTURE PLAN

Little Humboldt - Rock Creek - Bullhead - Little Owyhee  
Spruce/Pequop Herd Use Areas

INTRODUCTION

The proposed gathering area covers five wild horse herd use areas and portions of four adjoining allotments outside designated horse use areas. The majority of the area is located in the Elko Resource Area of the Elko District and the Paradise/Denio Resource Area of the Winnemucca District. This area straddles the north end of the boundary between Elko and Humboldt Counties. The gathering area also covers a herd management area in the Wells Resource Area of the Elko District. This area is in eastern Elko County (see Figs. 1 & 2).

This document outlines the process that will be involved in the wild horse gather for the Little Humboldt, Rock Creek, Bullhead, Little Owyhee, and Spruce/Pequop wild horse herd areas and portions of Jakes Creek, Tall Corral, Big Springs and Chase Spring Allotments. Included are the number of horses to be captured, the time and method of capture and the handling and disposition of captured horses.

None of the herd use areas are presently covered by a herd management plan (Little Owyhee Desert/Snowstorm Mountain Herd Area Activity Plan in draft), however RMP/EIS's have been developed for all three Resource Areas involved. There is also a CRMP for the Bullhead and Little Owyhee areas which recommended authorized management levels of horses. The RMP/EIS's established management numbers for horses in the respective herd areas. The Elko and Paradise/Denio RMP/EIS's were coordinated for horse management numbers in the Little Owyhee and Bullhead herd areas. The proposed gather is to reduce horse numbers to conform to the authorized management levels within herd use areas and to gather horses which are outside of designated herd use areas. This action is therefore considered a part of long-term management.

Number of Horses to be Gathered

The proposed number of horses to be gathered is shown by herd area as follows:

<u>Herd Area</u>	<u>Nos. to be Managed</u>	<u>No. Inventoried</u>	<u>Nos. to be Gathered</u>
Little Humboldt	107	168	61
Rock Creek	119	190	71
Bullhead	50 (adults)	133	67
Little Owyhee*	200 (adults)	409	159
Spruce/Pequop	64 to 80	116	52
TOTAL	540 to 556	1016	410

Horses from the above herd areas are expanding their range into allotments outside herd area boundaries specifically Jakes Creek, Tall Corral, Big Springs, and Chase Spring Allotments. Gathering efforts will be concentrated to remove all horses from these allotments and to leave the authorized management level within the herd area boundaries. This is based on census and 1987 estimated populations.

\* Gathering efforts will be concentrated in the Lake Creek Field of the Little Owyhee Herd Area.

An additional 20 head of horses in the Bullhead and Little Owyhee herd areas will be captured, fitted with color coded collars and released for study purposes.

#### Time and Method of Capture

The gather contract is expected to be awarded in FY1987 with the work being done in early FY1988. The gather should last approximately 30 days.

The method of capture to be used will be a helicopter to bring the horses to trap sites and horseback riders at the wings of portable traps. The temporary traps and corrals will be constructed from portable pipe panels. Traps will need a holding area for horses prior to transport to the temporary holding facility. Traps will be constructed on existing roads, outside Wilderness Study Areas (see Figs. 3 & 4).

Trap sites will be selected by the contractor and approved by the COR. Trap sites will receive cultural and T&E plant and animal clearance prior to use.

#### Branded and Claimed Animals

A notice of intent to impound and a 28 day notice to gather wild horses will be issued concurrently by the BLM prior to any gathering operations in this area.

The Nevada Department of Agriculture and the District Brand Inspector will receive copies of these notices, as well as the Notice of Public Sale if issued.

The COR/PI will contact the District Brand Inspector and make arrangements for dates and time when brand inspections will be needed.

When horses are captured, the COR/PI and the District Brand Inspector will jointly inspect all animals at the holding facility in the gathering area. If determined necessary at that time by all parties involved, horses will be sorted into three categories.

- a. Branded animals with offspring, including yearlings.
- b. Unbranded or claimed animals with offspring, including yearlings with obvious evidence of existing or former private ownership (e.g. photo documentation, saddle marks, etc.).
- c. Unbranded animals and offspring without obvious evidence of former private ownership.

The COR/PI, after consultation with the District Brand Inspector, will determine if unbranded animals are wild and free-roaming horses. The District Brand Inspector will determine ownership of branded animals and their offspring and if possible the ownership of unbranded animals determined not to be wild and free-roaming horses.

Branded horses with offspring and claimed unbranded horses with offspring for which the owners have been identified by the District Brand Inspector will be retained in the custody of the BLM pending notification of the owner or claimant.

A separate holding corral will be set up near the temporary holding corral to house these horses until the owner or claimant can pick them up.

The animals will remain in the custody of the BLM until settlement in full is made for impoundment and trespass charges as determined appropriate by the Paradise-Denio Area Manager, Elko Area Manager or Wells Area Manager in accordance with provision in 43 CFR Subpart 4150. In the event settlement is not made the horses will be sold at public auction by the BLM.

Branded horses with offspring whose owners cannot be determined and unclaimed, unbranded horses with offspring having evidence of existing or former private ownership will be released to the Nevada Department of Agriculture (District Brand Inspector) as estrays.

The District Brand Inspector will provide the COR/PI a brand inspection certificate for the immediate shipment of wild horses to Palomino Valley (Reno) ~~and for the branded or claimed horses where impoundment and trespass charges have not been offered or received for shipment to public auction or another holding facility.~~

#### Destruction of Injured or Sick Animals

Any severely injured or seriously sick animal shall be destroyed in accordance with 43 CFR 4730.1. Animals shall be destroyed only when a definite act of mercy is needed to alleviate pain and suffering. The COR will make this determination, with advice from a veterinarian, when unsure of the severity of the illness or injury. Destruction will be done in the most humane method available. A veterinarian can be called from Elko if necessary to care for any injured horses.

Disposal of the carcass will be in accordance with I.M. No. NV-83-84.

#### Administration of the Contract

The COR will be the Elko District Wild Horse Specialist. The COR will be directly responsible for conducting the roundup and can appoint other BLM personnel to assist with the roundup as necessary. Personnel from the Winnemucca District will be available to assist the COR when gathering operations are taking place in areas administered by the Winnemucca District.

To assist the COR in administering the contract, BLM will have a second helicopter available at the round up site. This helicopter will be used with discretion to minimize disturbance of horses that would make gathering more difficult.

The COR is directly responsible for the conduct of the gathering operation, and is responsible for keeping the Elko District Manager, the Winnemucca District Manager and the Nevada State Office informed on the progress of the gathering operation.

#### Contractors Briefing

The contractor, after award of the contract, will be briefed on his duties and responsibilities before the notice to proceed is issued.

### Public Meeting

One public meeting will be held in Elko at a place and time to be announced prior to the start of the gather. This meeting is required by law to get public input on the use of helicopter in the gathering process and motorized vehicles in transporting the animals.

### Temporary Holding Facility

The holding facility shall be on public land unless an agreement is made between the contractor and a private landowner for use of private facilities. When private land is used, the contractor must guarantee BLM, and the public, access to the facility and accept all liability for use of such facilities. Use of private facilities is subject to approval by the COR.

The contractor shall provide all feed, water, labor and equipment to care for captured horses at the holding facility, and transportation of captured horses from the temporary holding facility to the Nevada Distribution Center, Palomino Valley (Reno), Nevada. All work will be done according to the following specifications and attached work location map. All labor, vehicles, helicopters, traps, troughs, feed, temporary holding facilities and other equipment, including but not limited to the aforementioned, shall be furnished by the contractor. BLM will furnish contract supervision.

### Detailed Specifications

#### A. Roundup procedures within contract area:

1. The COR/PI will determine specific roundup areas and number of horses within each herd area as animal concentration and weather conditions dictate. Numbers of horses to be gathered by herd area are as follows:

<u>Herd Area</u>	<u>Numbers</u>
Little Humboldt	61
Rock Creek	71
Bullhead	67
Little Owyhee	159
Spruce/Pequop	<u>52</u>
TOTAL	410

2. The COR will determine specific roundup areas and numbers of animals within general contract areas as animal concentration and weather conditions dictate.

#### B. In addition to the provisions of 43 CFR Part 4700 the use of the helicopter shall be further regulated to the extent that:

1. The helicopter shall be used in such a manner that bands or herds will tend to remain together.

2. The rate of movement shall not exceed limitations set by the COR who shall consider terrain, weather, distance to be traveled, and condition of the animals.
3. When refueling, the helicopter must remain a distance of at least 1,000 feet or more from the temporary holding facility, vehicles (other than fuel truck), and personnel not involved in refueling.

C. Motorized Equipment

1. All motorized equipment employed in the transportation of captured animals shall be in compliance with appropriate State and Federal laws and regulations applicable to the humane transportation of animals.
2. Vehicles shall be in good repair, of adequate rated capacity, and operated so as to insure that captured animals are transported without ~~undue risk or injury.~~
3. Only stocktrailers shall be allowed for transporting animals from traps to temporary holding facilities. Only Bobtail trucks, stocktrailers, or single deck trucks shall be used to haul animals from temporary holding facilities to final destination. Sides or stockracks of transporting vehicles shall be a minimum height of 6 feet 6 inches from vehicle floor. Single deck trucks with trailers 40 feet or longer shall have two partition gates to separate animals. Trailers less than 40 feet shall have at least one partition gate to separate the animals. The use of double deck trailers is unacceptable and shall not be allowed.
4. All vehicles used to transport animals to final destination shall be equipped with doors at the rear end of the vehicle. At least one of these rear doors shall be capable of sliding either horizontally or vertically.
5. Floors of vehicles shall be covered and maintained with a non-skid surface such as sand, mineral soil or wood shavings, to prevent the animals from slipping.
6. The number of animals to be loaded and transported in any vehicle shall be as directed by the COR and may include limitations on numbers according to age, size, sex, temperament and animal condition.
7. The COR shall consider the condition of the animals, weather conditions, type of vehicles, distance to be transported, or other factors when planning for the movement of captured animals. The COR shall provide for any brand and/or inspection services required for the captured animals.
8. 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 twenty miles per load.
9. Vehicles traveling within WSA boundaries will be confined to existing roads and ways.

D. Trapping and Care

1. All capture attempts shall be accomplished by the utilization of a helicopter. Wing riders may be used if necessary. Roping will be done only when necessary, with prior approval by the COR. Under no circumstances shall animals be tied down for more than one hour.
2. The helicopter shall be used in such a manner that bands or herds will to remain together as much as possible.
3. The rate of movement and distance the animals travel shall not exceed limitations set by the COR who will consider terrain, physical barriers, weather, condition of the animals and other factors.
4. It is estimated that six trap locations will be required to accomplish the work. All trap locations and holding facilities must be approved by the COR prior to construction. ~~The contractor may also be required to change or move trap locations as determined by the COR.~~ All traps and holding facilities not located on public land must have prior written approval of the landowner.
5. 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. 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.
6. No fence modification will be made without authorization from the COR. The contractor shall be responsible for restoration of any fence modification or damage which he has made.
7. 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.
8. Alternate pens, within the holding facility shall be furnished by the contractor to separate mares with small foals, sick and injured animals, and estray 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.

9. Animals shall be transported to final destination from temporary holding facilities within 24 hours after capture unless prior approval is granted by the COR 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.

10. 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.

11. It is the responsibility of the contractor to provide security to prevent loss, injury or death of captured animals until delivery to final destination.

12. The contractor shall restrain sick or injured animals so that they may be provided treatment by the COR. The COR will 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.

#### F. Helicopter, Pilot and Communications

1. The contractor must operate 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.

2. When refueling, the helicopter shall remain a distance of at least 1,000 feet or more from animals, vehicles (other than fuel truck), and personnel not involved in refueling.

3. The COR shall have the means to communicate with the pilot and be able to direct the use of the gather helicopter at all times. The frequency(s) used for this contract will be assigned by the COR when the government furnished "slip-in" VHF/FM portable radio is used. When a VHF/AM radio is used, the frequency will be 122.925 MHz.

4. The contractor shall obtain the necessary FCC licenses for the radio system.

5. The proper operation, service and maintenance of all contractor furnished helicopters is the responsibility of the contractor. The BLM reserves the right to remove from service pilots and helicopters which, in the opinion of the contracting officer or COR violate contract rules, are unsafe or otherwise unsatisfactory. In this event, the contractor will be notified in writing to furnish replacement pilots or helicopters within 48 hours of notification. All such replacements must be approved in advance of operation by the contracting officer or his/her representatives.

G. Contractor-furnished Property

1. All hay, water, vehicles, saddle horses, helicopters and other equipment shall be provided by the contractor. Other equipment includes, but is not limited to, a minimum of 1,000 linear feet of 72-inch high (minimum height) panels for traps and holding facilities and enough water troughs for a minimum storage capacity of 300 gallons.
2. The contractor shall furnish an avionics system that will allow communications between the contractor's helicopter and his fuel truck.
3. The contractor shall furnish a VHF/AM radio transceiver in the contractor's helicopter which has the capability to operate on a frequency of 122.925 MHz.
4. The contractor shall provide an avionics system in the contractor's helicopter to accommodate a government furnished "slip-in" VHF/FM portable radio, manufactured by GE, Model HN-56 Porta-Mobil II, including the plugs necessary to connect the government radio to the aircraft's integrated audio and transmit selector system (see paragraph H, entitled "Avionics Systems Furnished by the Contractor to Accommodate Government-Furnished Equipment" and Illustration f1) and the connectors to an external antenna (see Illustration f2).

H. Avionics Systems Furnished by the Contractor to Accommodate Government-Furnished Equipment

1. This contract includes systems utilizing government-furnished avionics equipment, for which the contractor is required to make provisions in his aircraft.
2. The government will retain full ownership and control of any property which it may loan and retains the right to withdraw government property at any time. The contractor shall execute property loan documents for any property loaned and shall return, to the government office making the original issue, all government property upon the termination of the contract or immediately after the end of project use of the aircraft.
3. The contractor shall be responsible for any damage to government-furnished property in his custody, normal wear and tear excluded.
4. The contractor shall arrange with the COR for any required maintenance of the government-furnished property.
5. The government will furnish and maintain the following unit, "slip-in" VHF/FM portable radio, however, the contractor is responsible for the balance of the system necessary to insure proper operation in accordance with the installation and maintenance standards.
  - a. "Slip-in" VHF/FM portable radio. The contractor shall make the provisions in his aircraft to operate one "slip-in" VHF/FM portable radio through the independent "Audio Control System".



b. The wiring and connectors shall be designed to accommodate the Motorola PT-200, -300, -400 series of portable radios, and shall include the following:

- (1) A bungee cord hold-down radio mounting installed in the cockpit, with radio controls convenient to the pilot. The radio mounting and wiring shall permit fast and convenient installation and removal of the "slip-in" units.
- (2) The receiver audio, microphone audio, and transmitter keying circuits shall be connected to the aircraft's integrated audio and transmit selector system (designated Forest Net or FM-II), via a control cable from the main wiring harness terminated with a Motorola plug no. 28A16370 (Amphenol 91-MC4M-12).
- (3) A vertically polarized antenna shall be provided for each radio as shown on ~~Illustration f2.~~
- (4) The plug shall be Motorola plug no. 28A16370 (Amphenol 91-MC4M-12), pin termination as follows:
  - Pin 1 - Airframe Ground
  - Pin 2 - Microphone Audio
  - Pin 3 - Microphone Key
  - Pin 4 - Receiver Audio
- (5) The portable radio keying circuit requires an isolated contact closure from Pin 3 to airframe ground, instead of a diode keying circuit (the PT-200, -300, -400 has a positive battery ground).
- (6) The selector panel shall supply positive polarity microphone excitation voltage, from the aircraft 28-volt DC system through a suitable resistor network, to the aircraft microphone. A blocking capacitor shall be provided in the selector panel to prevent the portable microphone excitation voltage entering the system.
- (7) The portable receiver audio output power and impedance varies with the radio model (from 2 watts at 3.2 ohms to 3 milliwatts at 270 ohms).
- (8) The transmitter selector system shall supply microphone excitation voltage (talk-voltage) (from the aircraft 28-volt DC system through a suitable resistor network) to the microphone jack for the "slip-in" portable radio ("Forest Net" or FM-II) transmit positions. A blocking capacitor shall be provided to separate the aircraft microphone excitation voltage from the portable radio interface connector. The interphone shall be an override type that will operate at any time regardless of the position of the transmitter selector switch. The illustrations

attached show the equipment requirements to be contractor-furnished and maintained for the government-furnished "slip-in" unit.

6. Contractor-furnished adapter unit for "slip-in" portable radio, other than Motorola PT-200, -300, -400.

a. The aircraft shall be equipped to accept the Motorola PT-200, -300, -400 as specified previously. In addition, the contractor shall furnish an adapter as shown on Illustration f1. This adapter shall provide the interface connectors and circuits necessary to operate the General Electric, Model No. HN-56 radio through the PT-200, -300, -400 system in the aircraft. Make sure "talk voltage" is hooked up (as per paragraph H5b(8)).

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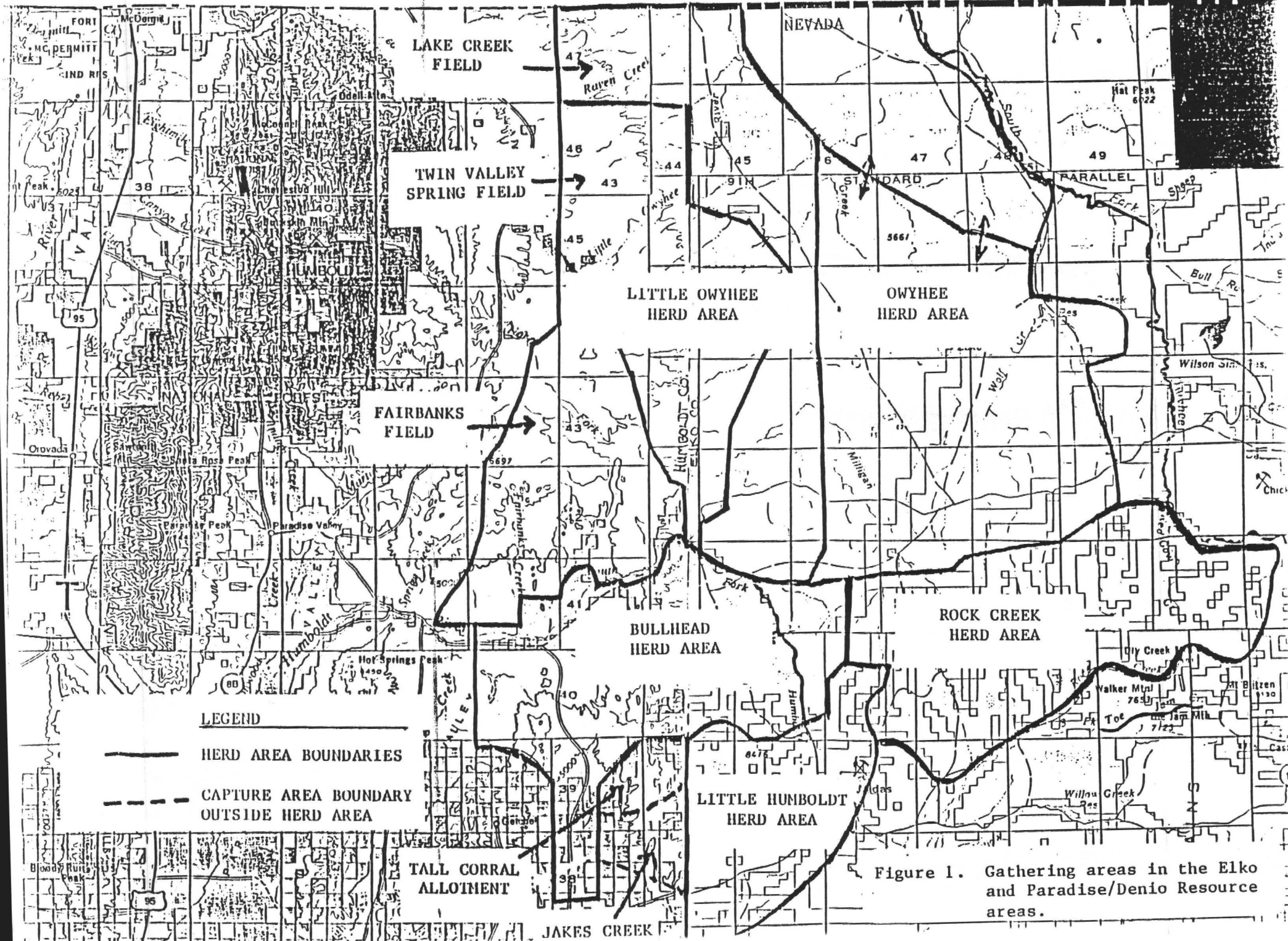
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Edward Spang  
State Director

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Date



LEGEND

- HERD AREA BOUNDARIES
- - - CAPTURE AREA BOUNDARY OUTSIDE HERD AREA

Figure 1. Gathering areas in the Elko and Paradise/Denio Resource areas.

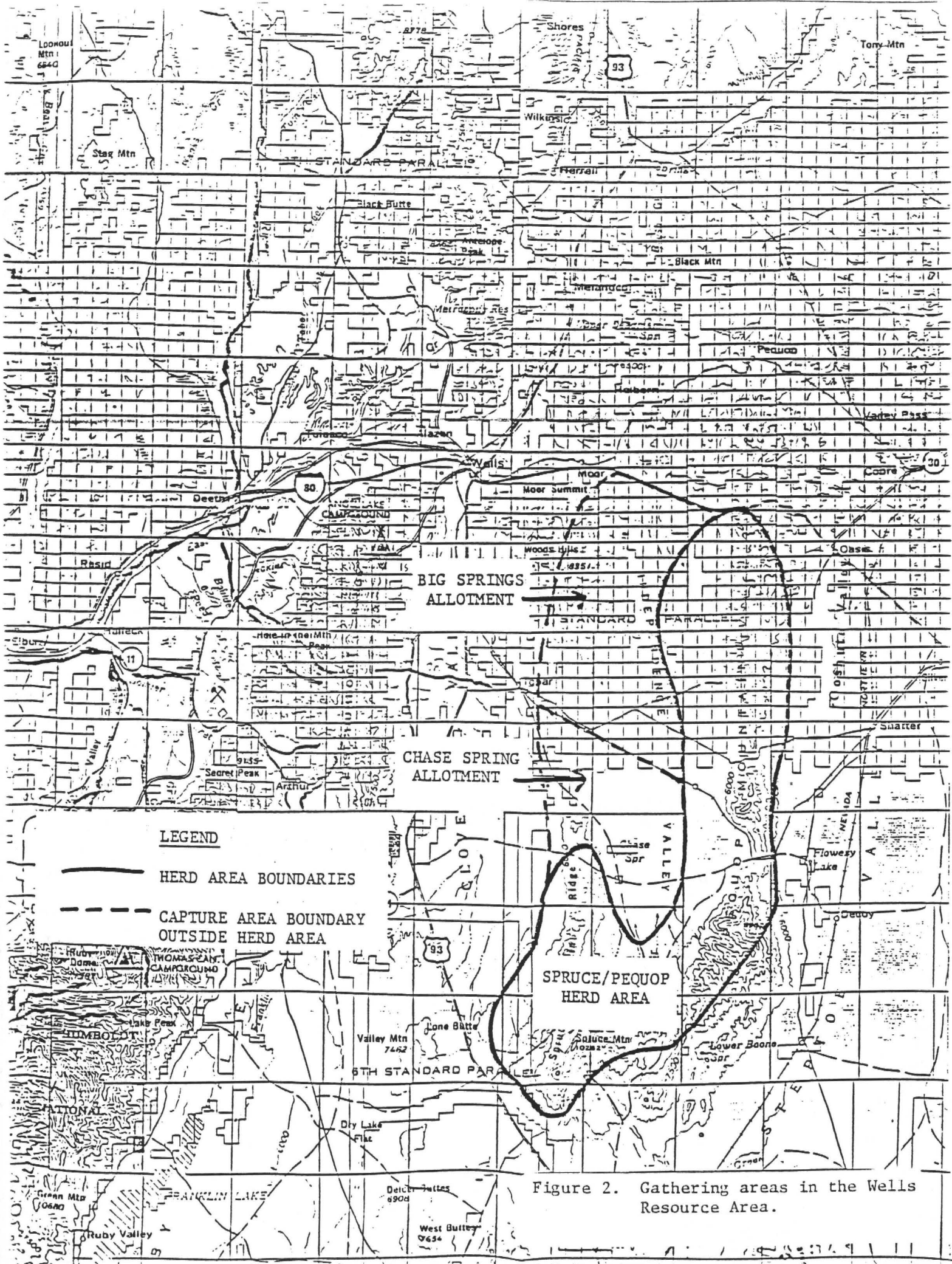


Figure 2. Gathering areas in the Wells Resource Area.

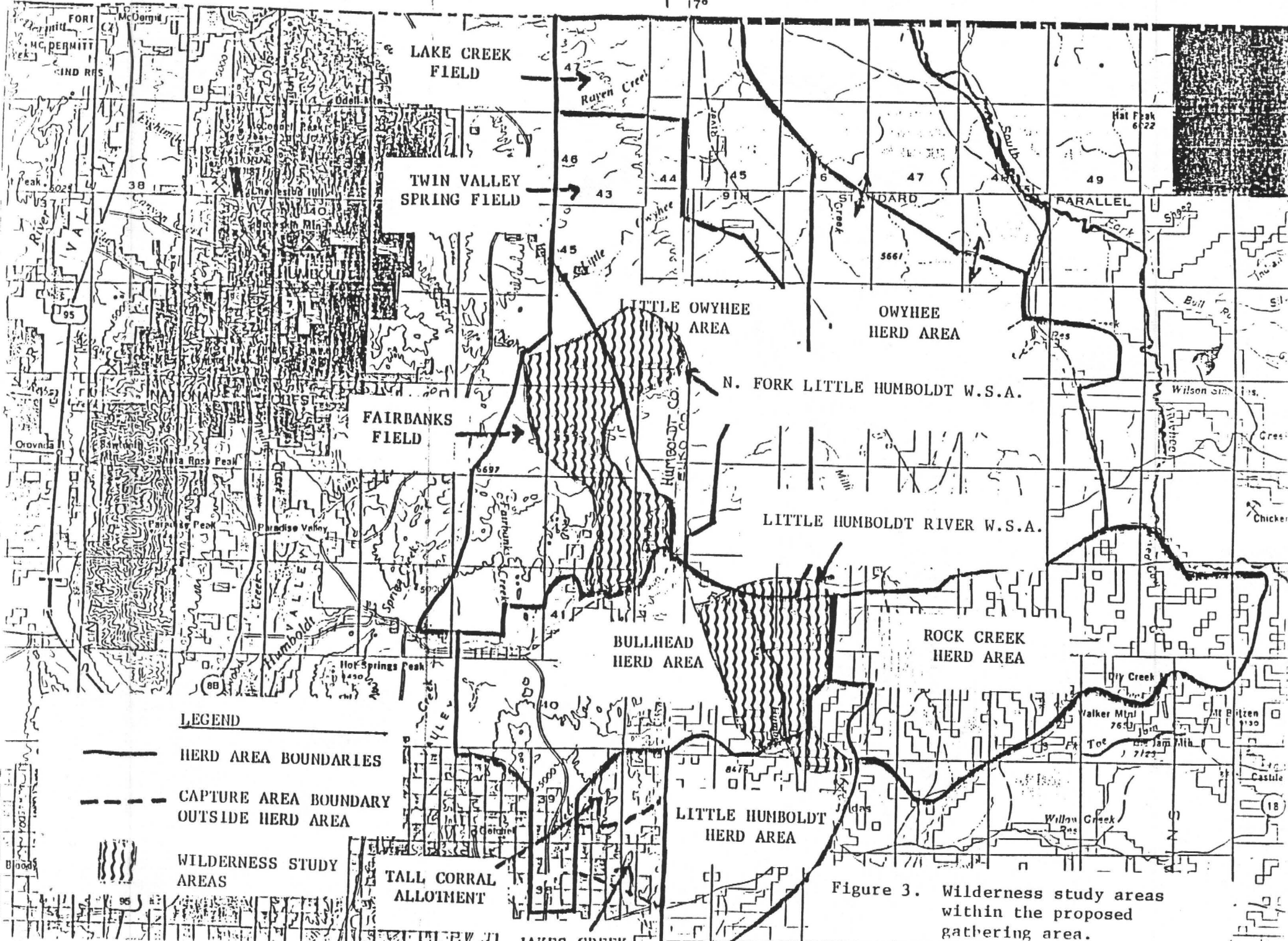


Figure 3. Wilderness study areas within the proposed gathering area.

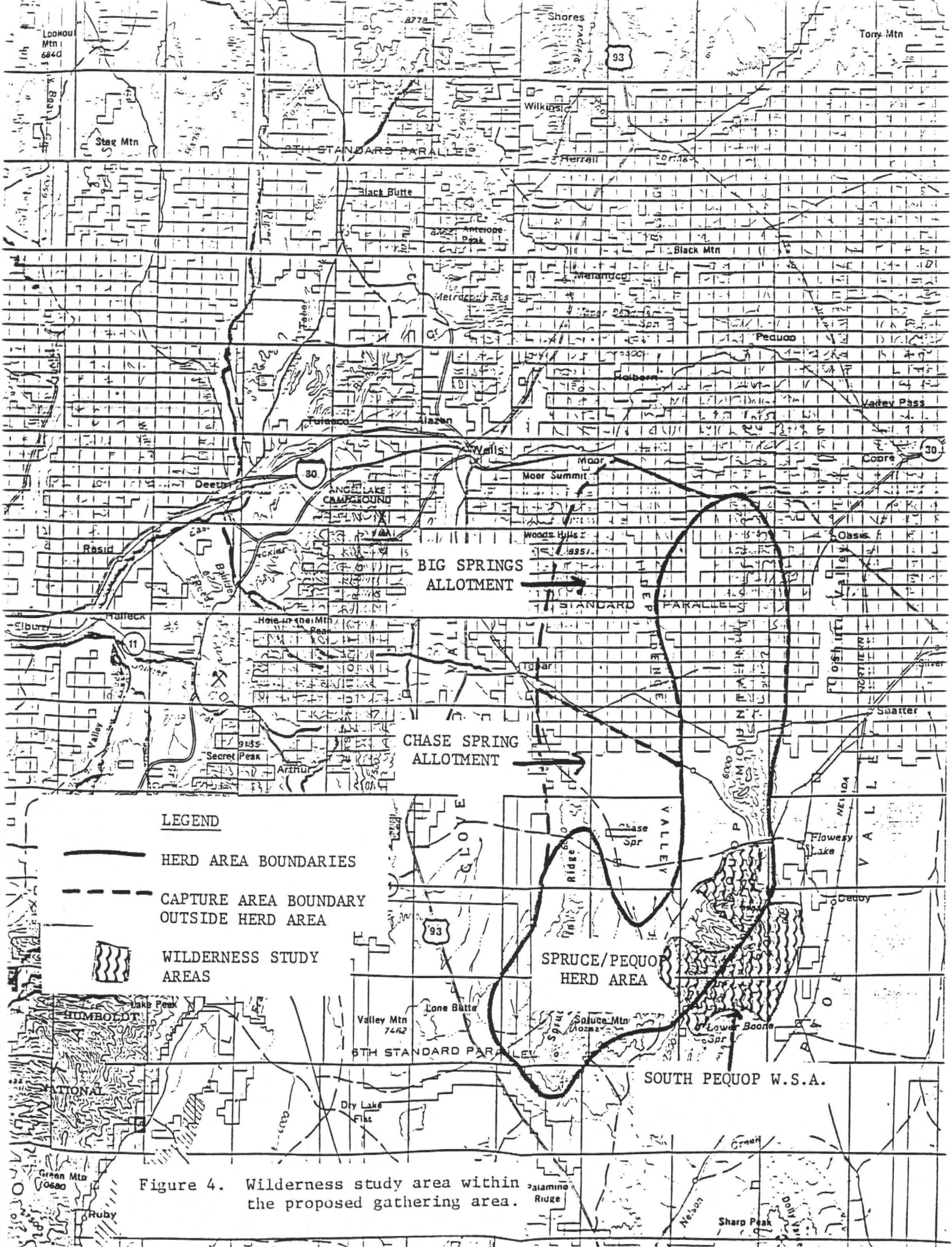


Figure 4. Wilderness study area within the proposed gathering area.