

COPPERSMITH HERD MANAGEMENT AREA PLAN

Surprise Resource Area
Susanville District
1984

I. LOCATION

The Coppersmith Herd Management Area (HMA), 55,040 acres, lies 30 miles south of Cedarville, California. Terrain is rough and steep with extensive lava outcroppings. Elevation ranges from 5000 feet to 8000 feet. Water is abundant. Significant amounts of snow (1.5 feet +) falls on 50 percent of the area during the winter. Over half the lands are inaccessible by vehicle.

The major vegetative site in this area is juniper-big sagebrush, with scattered low sagebrush sites found on the rocky plateaus. Horses depend on both the big sage and low sage sites for their winter forage. Use area dependencies by wild horses are illustrated in Appendix Attachment #1.

The HMA is bounded to the south by Tuledad Canyon. This natural barrier allows little, if any, interchange between the Coppersmith horses and the Buckhorn HMA horses to the south. The area is bounded to the west by Boot Lake and Forest Service boundary fence and to the east by the Tuledad Allotment boundary fence. The fences are located away from the major horse use areas, having little or no effect on their movements.

II. RESOURCE INFORMATION

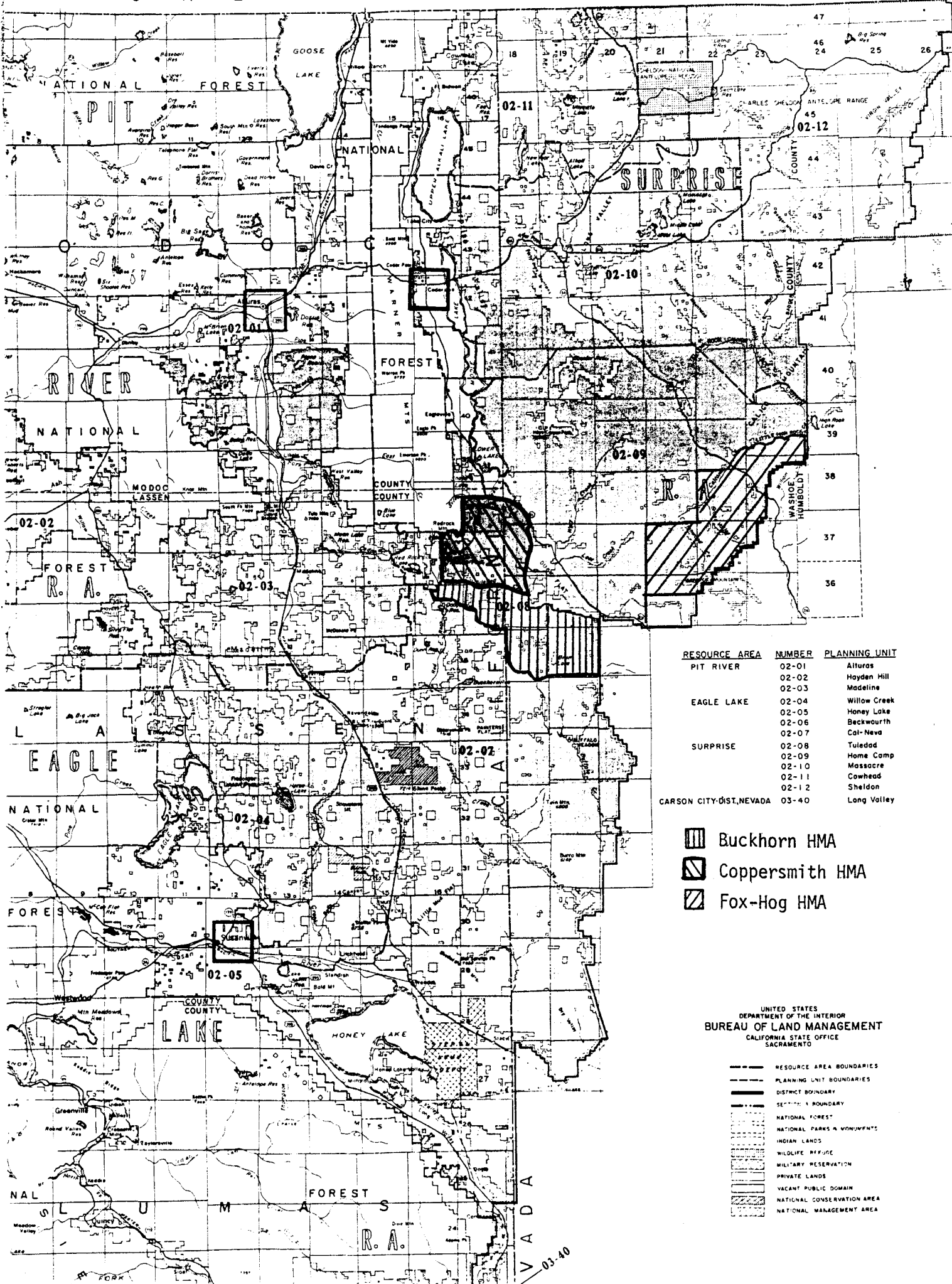
A. Wild Horse Use History

The Susanville District Wild Horse and Burro Plan provides a general history of wild horses in the District.




B. Land Use Plan

The Tuledad/Home Camp Environmental Impact Statement was completed in 1978. Land use decisions were made from the Environmental Statement through the Tuledad/Home Camp Management Framework Plan (MFP) in 1979. The MFP established a minimum number of 100 wild horses for Tuledad Herd Management Area, which has now been divided into the Coppersmith HMA and the Buckhorn HMA. A maximum number was not established at that time.














On September 13, 1983 a meeting between the Bureau of Land Management, the Tuledad Grazing Association and the Wild Horse Representatives (Dawn Lappin and Jim Clapp; via phone) was held to set a maximum number. This group agreed to manage each herd, Coppersmith and Buckhorn, for a minimum of 50 head and a maximum of 75 head (100-150 head for entire Tuledad Area). The group also agreed that any available forage delineated for livestock and horses will be allotted to livestock, until such time as the permittees total preference has been satisfied. Once permittees total preference has been reestablished any increases delineated for livestock and horses will be shared equitably between the two uses.

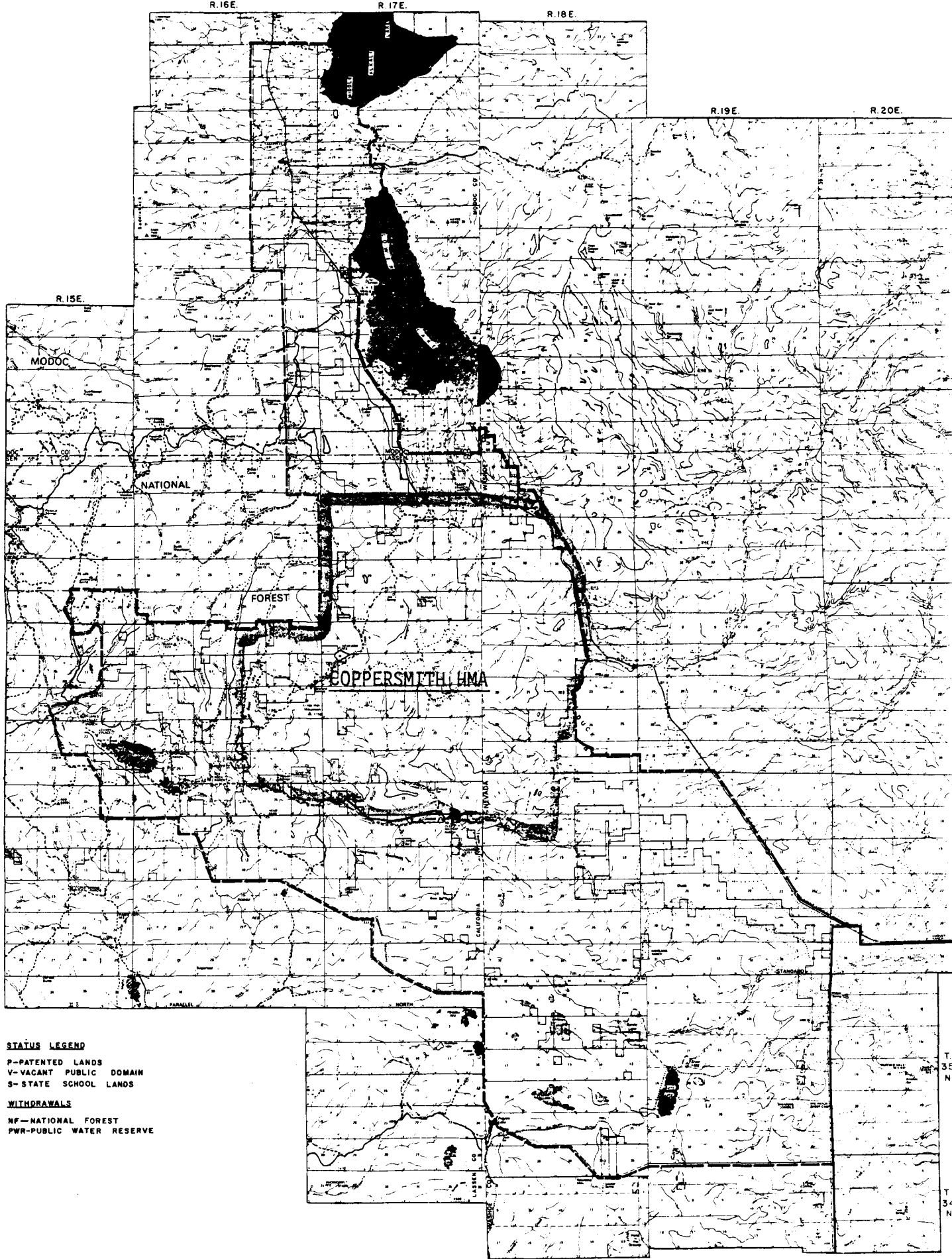


RESOURCE AREA	NUMBER	PLANNING UNIT
PIT RIVER	02-01	Alturas
	02-02	Hayden Hill
	02-03	Madeline
EAGLE LAKE	02-04	Willow Creek
	02-05	Honey Lake
	02-06	Beckworth
	02-07	Cal-Neva
SURPRISE	02-08	Tuleadd
	02-09	Home Camp
	02-10	Massacre
	02-11	Cowhead
CARSON CITY-DIST, NEVADA	02-12	Sheldon
	03-40	Long Valley

-  Buckhorn HMA
-  Coppersmith HMA
-  Fox-Hog HMA

UNITED STATES
DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
BUREAU OF LAND MANAGEMENT
CALIFORNIA STATE OFFICE
SACRAMENTO

-  RESOURCE AREA BOUNDARIES
-  PLANNING UNIT BOUNDARIES
-  DISTRICT BOUNDARY
-  SECTION 1 BOUNDARY
-  NATIONAL FOREST
-  NATIONAL PARKS & MONUMENTS
-  INDIAN LANDS
-  WILDLIFE REFUGE
-  MILITARY RESERVATION
-  PRIVATE LANDS
-  VACANT PUBLIC DOMAIN
-  NATIONAL CONSERVATION AREA
-  NATIONAL MANAGEMENT AREA



STATUS LEGEND

- P-PATENTED LANDS
- V-VACANT PUBLIC DOMAIN
- S-STATE SCHOOL LANDS

WITHDRAWALS

- NF-NATIONAL FOREST
- PWR-PUBLIC WATER RESERVE

020-08-3

DRAWING NUMI

MT. DIABLO MERIDIAN

1/4" = 1 MILE

02-08

TULEAD PLANNING UNIT

T. 35 N.
T. 34 N.

C. Other Resources

The Coppersmith HMA encompasses an important vegetative base providing habitat for typical Great Basin wildlife species. This vegetative base also provides protection for archaeological and watershed values through erosion control.

The Coppersmith HMA is located in the Tuledad Allotment. This Allotment is divided into two pastures for livestock management purposes. The Coppersmith HMA is contained entirely in the North Pasture of this Allotment. The two pastures receive alternate year early use (04/16-07/15) by cattle. This affords one pasture growing season rest from cattle every other year. The Allotment is stocked with 1,400 cattle during an April 16 to September 30 grazing season.

One thousand sheep (2,000) use the HMA from March 25 - June 30 every year and from September 15 to October 30 on most years. Occasionally sheep will be allowed to graze in November on the lower elevation slopes. This will occur when there is sufficient fall precipitation to create a late growing season on annual grasses.

A more detailed explanation of grazing management can be found in the Tuledad Allotment Management Plan (1980).

III. OBJECTIVES

1. Maintain a healthy and viable wild, free-roaming horse herd in the Coppersmith HMA.
2. Maintain a minimum of 50 head and a maximum of 75 head of wild horses through periodic removal.
3. Develop a highly adoptable horse through the selection of desirable breeding horses.
4. Provide a highly adoptable horse for the Adoption Program through the selection of horses 4 years and under for adoption.

IV. MANAGEMENT METHODS

A base herd of fifty (50) horses will be established in the Coppersmith HMA. The entire existing herd will be gathered and marked for identification. Horses will then be selected, based on the selection criteria for this Plan, and returned to the Herd Management Area. Periodically, the entire herd will be gathered to reduce numbers to the fifty (50) base animals. The herd will be intensively managed and monitored in order to derive the results of the management techniques used. These results will be incorporated into the conclusion portion of the Modoc/Washoe Experimental Stewardship Committee's Wild, Free-Roaming Horse Comparison.

General capture and removal methods will be described in the Susanville District Wild Horse and Burro Plan. Detailed capture and removal plans will be developed annually by the District.

A. Selection Criteria

The selection criteria to be used for Coppersmith HMA will consist of the following three elements.

1. Quality

Quality will be based on the commonly accepted conformation standards for a light saddle horse, without regard to a particular breed.

2. Size

A fifteen hand or taller horse is preferred, however, quality will always take priority over size.

3. Color

The only color selection criteria will be for dark or black hooves, working away from white hooves.

Selection criteria will be applied in priority order of quality, size, and hoof color.

It is assumed, the use of specific conformation, size, and color selection criteria will allow for the development of a highly adoptable horse. In effect this herd will be selectively inbred or line bred for the characteristics stated in this Plan.

B. Sex Ratio

The base herd will consist of fifty (50) horses with a ratio of 35 females and 15 males. This is a 2.3 to 1 ratio which differs from the assumed existing ratio of 1 to 1. Each time the herd is gathered the ratio for the base herd will be reestablished.

This sex ratio will assist in the production of a larger number of highly adoptable, young horses. This ratio will also intensify the inbreeding process.

C. Removal

Wild horses in the Coppersmith HMA will be gathered in total when horse numbers reach or exceed 75 head. The base herd of fifty (50) would be returned to the herd area. As base herd horses die, they will be replaced by a younger horse produced within the herd.

Once the base herd is established, only the horses four years and under will be removed from the herd area in accordance with the Modoc/Washoe Experimental Stewardship Committee's Wild Horse and Burro Position Paper.

The maintenance of horse numbers at management levels will ensure proper stocking rates on the range and thereby assist in maintaining a healthy and viable herd. The removal of horses four years and younger will provide the Adoption Program with a highly adoptable horse.

D. Age Structure

An exact age structure is not planned for the Coppersmith Herd. However, base herd horses will be maintained in the herd area for their entire natural life. This management method coupled with the removal policy will result in an older age structured herd than presently exists in the Coppersmith Area.

The maintenance of horses in the Herd Area for their entire life will allow the BLM to avoid instances of maintaining older unadoptable animals in the corral for long periods of time.

V. EVALUATION AND REVISION

A. Evaluation

The management methods for the Coppersmith HMAP will be evaluated on an annual basis. Data collection will be based on field observations of horses in the traps, corrals, and on the range. Horses will be intensively monitored from the time of capture until they are adopted.

The method to be used in this evaluation will be strictly visual observations. Methods by which observations will be made are aerial (fixed wing or helicopter), and on the ground (foot, vehicle, or horseback).

While horses are on the range, most observations will be of a general nature in regards to health, viability, type and conformation. Specific data on each horse will be gathered after their capture.

Base herd horses will be identified and monitored throughout their natural life, while in the Coppersmith Herd. Horses removed from the herd will be monitored through the Adoption Program.

Information gathered through these observations will be documented on the attached forms (see Appendix).

The specific methods for evaluating each of the objectives is as follows:

1. Health will be measured based on the herds appearance, incidence of disease, injuries, nutrition and evidence of inbreeding problems (i.e. deformities).
2. Viability will be measured based on the herds rate of increase. A rate of increase at or below 13% would be considered a problem.
3. Aerial herd counts will be used to determine herd size and removal needs.
4. Adoptability will be based on the number of attempts required to adopt a horse, as compared to other Herd Management Areas.

B. Revision

Upon completion of annual evaluations, minor revisions maybe made to simplify the Plan or correct specific problems.

Major revisions will be necessary if the plan is not working as written or if reasonable progress toward objectives is not being made.

VI. COOPERATION IN MANAGEMENT

During the evaluation of the Coppersmith Herd Management Area Plan, additional monitoring data collected for the Tuledad Allotment Management Plan will be incorporated into the HMAP evaluation. Similarly, data gathered for the Coppersmith HMAP will be incorporated into the Tuledad AMP.

Specific data will be the number of horses and livestock on an annual basis and its effect on use levels and on long term vegetative trend.

Proposed changes or modifications in the Tuledad AMP or the Coppersmith HMAP will be evaluated as to their effect on each respective plan prior to a decision being finalized.

VII. APPROVAL

I, the undersigned, have reviewed this Herd Management Area Plan and agree it meets the elements of the Land Use Plan Decisions for Wild Free-Roaming Horses in the Surprise Resource Area. This Plan is consistent with and subject to all provisions of the Code of Federal Regulations (43 CFR 4700).



Area Manager

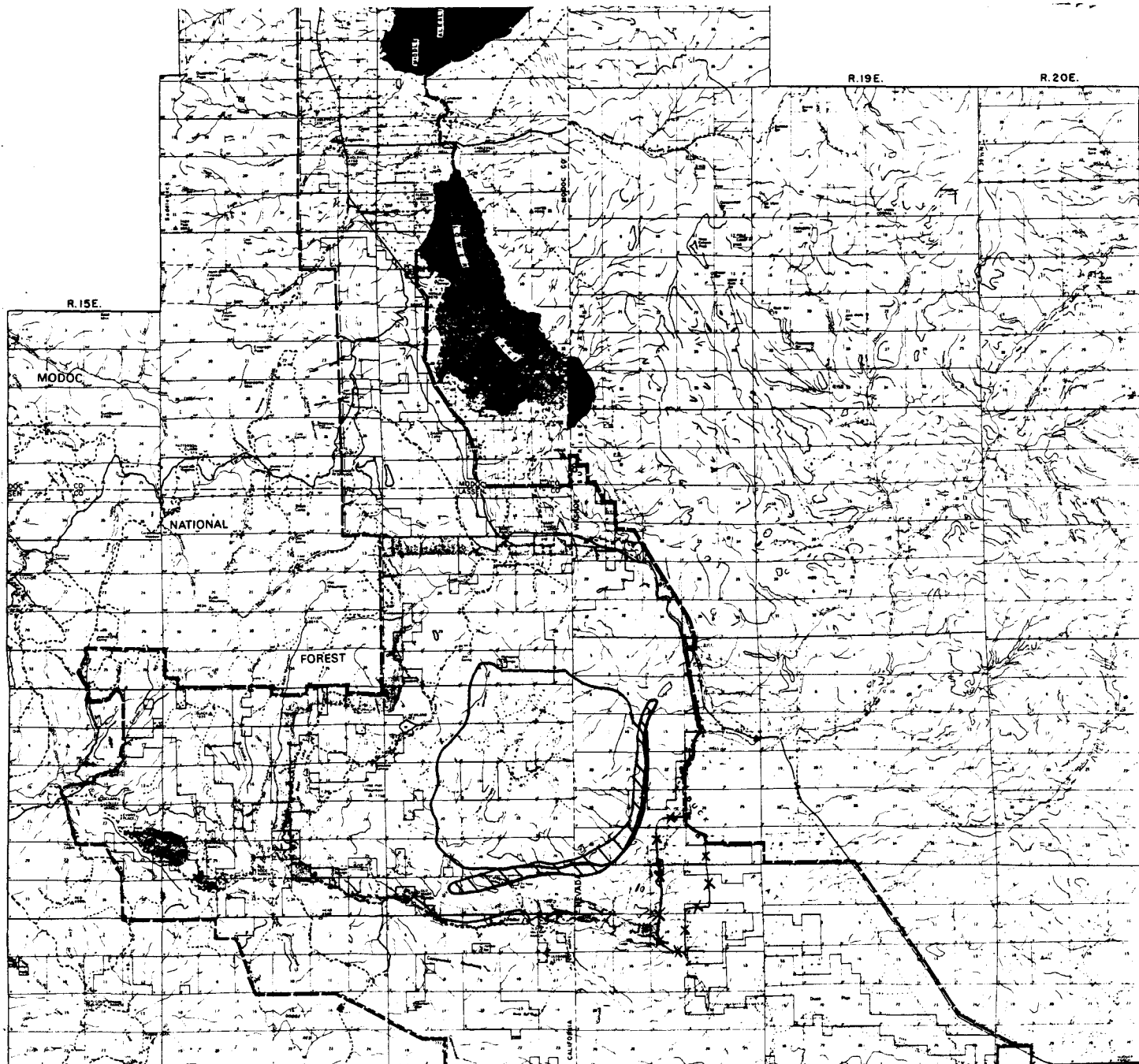
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Date

HABITAT TYPES FOR TULEDAD UNIT HORSE USE AREAS

<u>Habitat Type</u>	<u>Habitat Type No.</u>	<u>Present Range Condition</u>	<u>Acres</u>	<u>Percent of Total Acres</u>
<u>Coppersmith Horses - Winter 1975</u>				
Low sage/Idaho fescue	17	Fair	360	33.3
Big sage/bluebunch wheatgrass	20	Fair	720	66.7
			<u>1,080</u>	
<u>Coppersmith Horses - Summer 1975</u>				
Low sage/Idaho fescue	17	Fair	8,320	61.5
Big sage/Idaho fescue	7	Fair	3,760	27.8
Big sage/bluebunch wheatgrass	20	Fair	880	6.5
Low sage/rabbitbrush	1	Fair	360	2.7
Nevada bluegrass/sedge	13	Fair	200	1.5
			<u>13,520</u>	
<u>South of Tuledad Canyon Horses - Winter 1975</u>				
Big sage/squirreltail-Indian ricegrass	6	Fair	680	11.3
Low sage/Idaho fescue	17	Fair	4,200	69.5
Big sage/Idaho fescue	7	Fair	1,160	19.2
			<u>6,040</u>	
<u>South of Tuledad Canyon Horses - Summer 1975</u>				
Big sage/Idaho fescue	7	Fair	16,000	47.7
Low sage/Idaho fescue	17	Fair	15,200	45.3
Low sage/rabbitbrush	1	Fair	1,320	3.9
Big sage/squirreltail-Indian ricegrass	6	Fair	680	2.0
Nevada bluegrass/sedge	13	Fair	320	1.0
			<u>33,520</u>	

COPPERSMITH HMA

- Summer Use Area
- ▨ Winter Use Area
- ✕ Fence



COPPERSMITH HMA
BASE HERD IDENTIFICATION

ID#	DATE MARKED	BRAND	SEX	AGE	COLOR	PHOTO#	REMARKS
	9-25-85	X	M	1	BAY	Seattle Film 1	Small Star on Forehead 3 white feet; Left Front Black
	"	X	F	7	BAY	2	
	"	X	F	5	BAY	3	
	"	X	F	3	BROWN	4	
	"	X	F	2	BAY	5	
	"	X	M	12	BROWN	6	Small Star on Forehead 3 White Feet; Left Front Black
	"	X	F	6	BAY BROWN	7	Blaze Face HIND Feet White
	"	X	M	6	BROWN	8	SOME WHITE ON HIND FEET
	"	X	M	<1	BAY	9	

COPPERSMITH HMA
BASE HEAD IDENTIFICATION

ID#	DATE MARKED	BRAND	SEX	AGE	COLOR	PHOTO#	REMARKS
	9-25-85	X	F	2	BAY	10	STAR ON FOREHEAD FOUR WHITE FEET
	"	"	M	7	BAY	11	
	"	"	F	5	BAY	12	
	"	"	F	3	BROWN	13	STAR ON FOREHEAD
	"	"	F	2	BAY	14	STAR ON FOREHEAD
	"	"	F	3	BAY	15	
	"	"	F	1	BAY	16	
	"	"	F	5	BAY	17	
	"	"	M	1	BAY	18	

COPPERSMITH HMA
BASE HERD IDENTIFICATION

ID#	DATE MARKED	BRAND	SEX	AGE	COLOR	PHOTO#	REMARKS
	9-25-85	X	M	15	BROWN	19	STAR ON FOREHEAD
	"	"	F	4	BAY	20	WHITE ON FACE WHITE HIND FEET
	"	"	F	9	BAY	21	BLAZE FACE
	"	"	F	2	BAY	22	
	9-25-85	X	F	1	BAY	1	NEW Roll Kodachrome 3 WHITE FEET LEFT FRONT BLACK
	"	"	F	7	BAY	2	1 white FOOT Left hind
	"	"	M	3	BAY	3	TWO WHITE HIND FEET
	"	"	F	4	LIGHT BAY	4	
	"	"	F	9	BROWN	5	

COPPERSMITH HMA
BASE HERD IDENTIFICATION

ID#	DATE MARKED	BRAND	SEX	AGE	COLOR	PHOTO#	REMARKS
	9-25-85	X	M.	14	BROWN	6	STAR ON FACE THREE WHITE FEET, LEFT FRONT BLACK
	"	"	F	7	BAY	7	Right LEFT HIND FOOT WHITE
	"	"	F	1	BAY	8	LEFT HIND FOOT WHITE
	"	"	F	4	BAY	9	2 WHITE STRIPS ON FACE
	"	"	F	4	BAY	10	WHITE STAR ON FOREHEAD
	"	"	M	4	BAY	11	BLAZE FACE 4 WHITE FEET
	"	"	F	1	BAY	12	
	"	"	F	10	BAY	13	WHITE STAR ON FOREHEAD
	"	"	F	11	BROWN	14	

**COPPERSMITH HMA
BASE HERD IDENTIFICATION**

ID#	DATE MARKED	BRAND	SEX	AGE	COLOR	PHOTO#	REMARKS
	9-25-85	X	F	7	BROWN	15	
	"	"	F	2	BAY	16	
	"	"	M	4	SORREL	17,18	2 WHITE HIND FEET
	"	"	F	6	BAY	19	
	"	"	F	2	BAY	20	Small White Star
	"	"	F	4	BAY	21	
	"	"	M	2	BAY	22	
	"	"	M	7	BLACK	23	This horse was not accounted for in the 1986 gather
	"	"	F	6	BAY	24	

ACTUAL USE
1989 through 1995

YEAR	COPPERSMITH HMA NORTH PASTURE			USER GROUP	BUCKHORN HMA SOUTH PASTURE			BOTH HMA'S
	SEASON OF USE	AUMS			SEASON OF USE	AUMS		
1995	3/1	2/28	1896	WILDHORSE	3/1	2/28	1788	WILDHORSE
	7/15	10/14	1029	CATTLE	4/15	7/20	2836	3684
	3/24	7/2	743	SHEEP	3/25	7/25	1110	LIVESTOCK
	8/15	10/24	296	SHEEP	10/1	10/12	161	6175
	30% USE		3964	TOTAL	35% USE		5895	9859
1994	3/1	2/28	1536	WILDHORSE	3/1	2/28	1452	WILDHORSE
	4/15	7/7	2363	CATTLE	7/6	10/9	2031	2988
	3/25	7/2	657	SHEEP	3/27	7/25	1126	LIVESTOCK
	8/15	10/24	467	SHEEP	10/1	10/12	138	6782
	50% USE		5023	TOTAL	50% USE		4747	9770
1993	3/1	2/28	1272	WILDHORSE	3/1	2/28	1248	WILDHORSE
	7/13	10/31	2014	CATTLE	4/16	7/15	1839	2520
	3/25	7/1	615	SHEEP	3/27	8/15	1301	LIVESTOCK
	9/12	10/24	283	SHEEP	10/01	10/10	109	6161
	50% USE		4184	TOTAL	40% USE		4497	8681
1992	3/1	2/28	1056	WILDHORSE	3/1	2/28	1080	WILDHORSE
	7/8	9/23	1541	CATTLE	4/15	7/9	2221	2136
	3/24	6/16	552	SHEEP	3/28	8/2	1243	LIVESTOCK
	10/1	10/23	302	SHEEP	9/1	10/16	296	6155
	NOT MEASURED		3451	TOTAL	40% USE		4840	8291
1991	3/1	2/28	876	WILDHORSE	3/1	2/28	936	WILDHORSE
	4/16	10/1	4233	CATTLE			0	1812
	3/26	6/30	637	SHEEP	3/26	7/31	980	LIVESTOCK
	9/25	10/17	242	SHEEP	9/25	10/24	197	6289
	NOT MEASURED		5988	TOTAL	NOT MEASURED		2113	8101
1990	3/1	2/28	720	WILDHORSE	3/1	2/28	804	WILDHORSE
	7/16	10/15	2000	CATTLE	4/19	7/15	2502	1524
	3/26	7/1	644	SHEEP	3/26	8/5	832	LIVESTOCK
	9/25	10/18	223	SHEEP	9/25	10/24	185	6386
	45% USE		3587	TOTAL	45% USE		4323	7910
1989	3/1	2/28	612	WILDHORSE	3/1	2/28	696	WILDHORSE
	7/10	10/14	1780	CATTLE	4/7	7/9	1796	1308
	4/13	6/30	388	SHEEP	3/26	8/10	970	LIVESTOCK
	9/26	10/18	142	SHEEP	9/26	10/18	142	5218
	NOT MEASURED		2922	TOTAL	NOT MEASURED		3604	6526