

FOX-HOG HERD MANAGEMENT AREA PLAN

Surprise Resource Area  
Susanville District

1984

## I. LOCATION

The Fox-Hog Herd Management Area (HMA), 94,080 acres, lies about 40-50 miles southeast of Cedarville, California. Terrain is rolling mountains with large expanses of plateau land. Elevations range from 5300 feet to 8000 feet, with the majority of the area in the 5500 to 6500 foot range. Water is found in springs, reservoirs, and three perennial streams. Snowfall depths range from 1.5 to 3 feet, but only for short periods of time. The majority of the area is accessible by four-wheel drive vehicle. The area generally contains scattered patches of mountain mahogany and bitterbrush, with large areas of big and low sagebrush. The horses depend on the big and low sage sites, predominantly. Use area dependencies are illustrated in Appendix Attachment #1.

The Fox-Hog Herd Management Area has been split by two fences, one runs from near Fox Mountain north to another fence between the Denio and Bare Allotments and the other fence runs east and west through the upper northwest portion of the area. The fences were completed in early summer of 1976, after the boundaries for the herd management area was established. Based on inventory and ground observations, all horses are located in the northeast portion of the herd management area on the east side of the fence that runs from Fox Mountain to the Denio Allotment. This area is called the Hog Mountain Pasture and covers 40,637 acres. All boundaries of the Hog Mountain Pasture are fenced except for approximately six miles along Little High Rock Canyon, which is the northern boundary of the Pasture. There may be some interchange of horses between the area north of Little High Rock Canyon and the Hog Mountain area because the horses are able to cross the Canyon in several places.

## II. RESOURCE INFORMATION

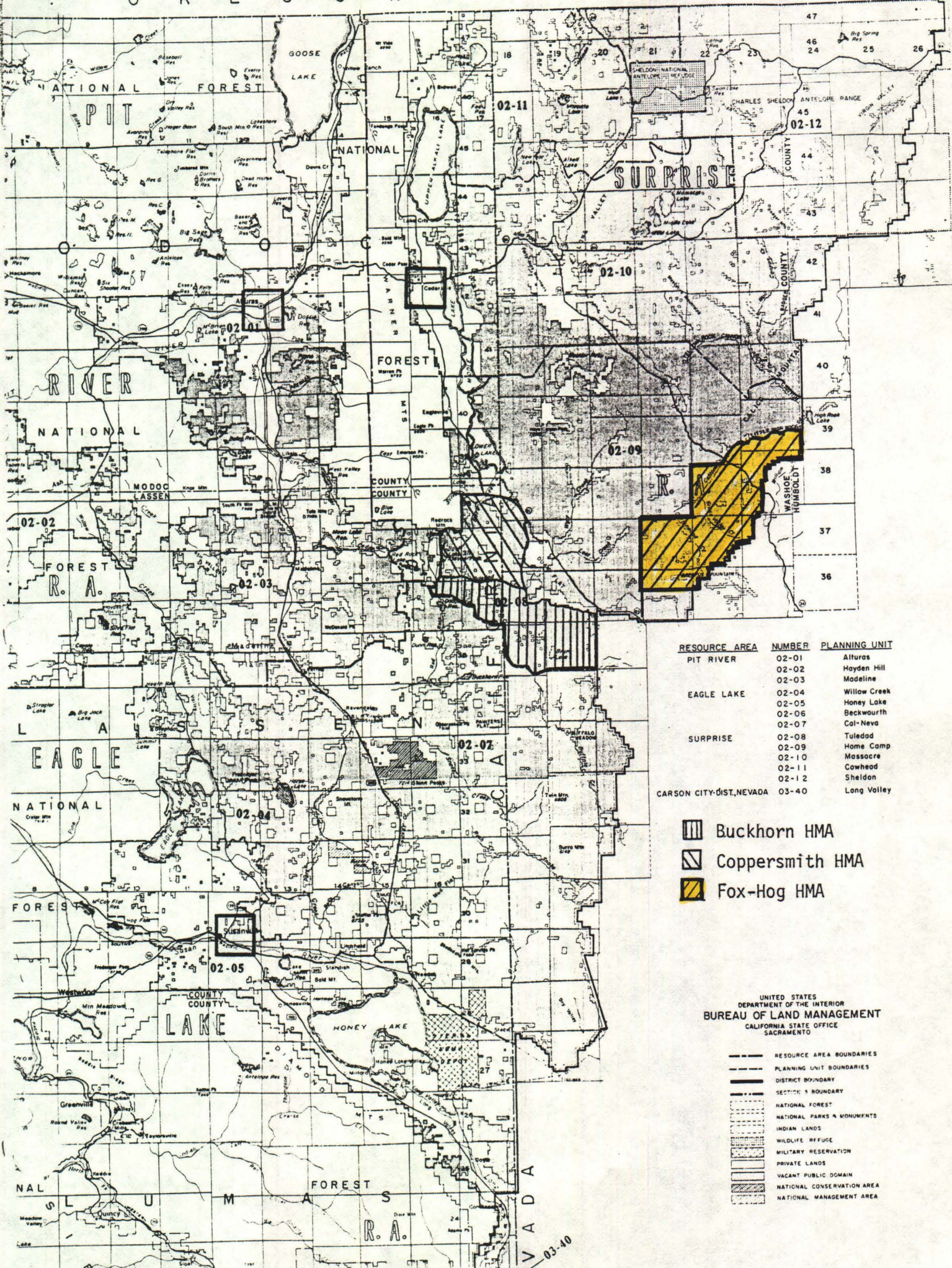
### A. Wild Horse Use History

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 in 1979. The MFP established a minimum number of 50 wild horses for the Fox-Hog Herd Management Area. A maximum number was not established at that time.

A maximum number of 75 horses was established by the Area Manager for the Fox-Hog Herd following input by the Modoc/Washoe ESP Technical Review Committee on Wild Horses and Burros and the Bare Allotment permittee. It was agreed that any available forage delineated for wild horses and livestock

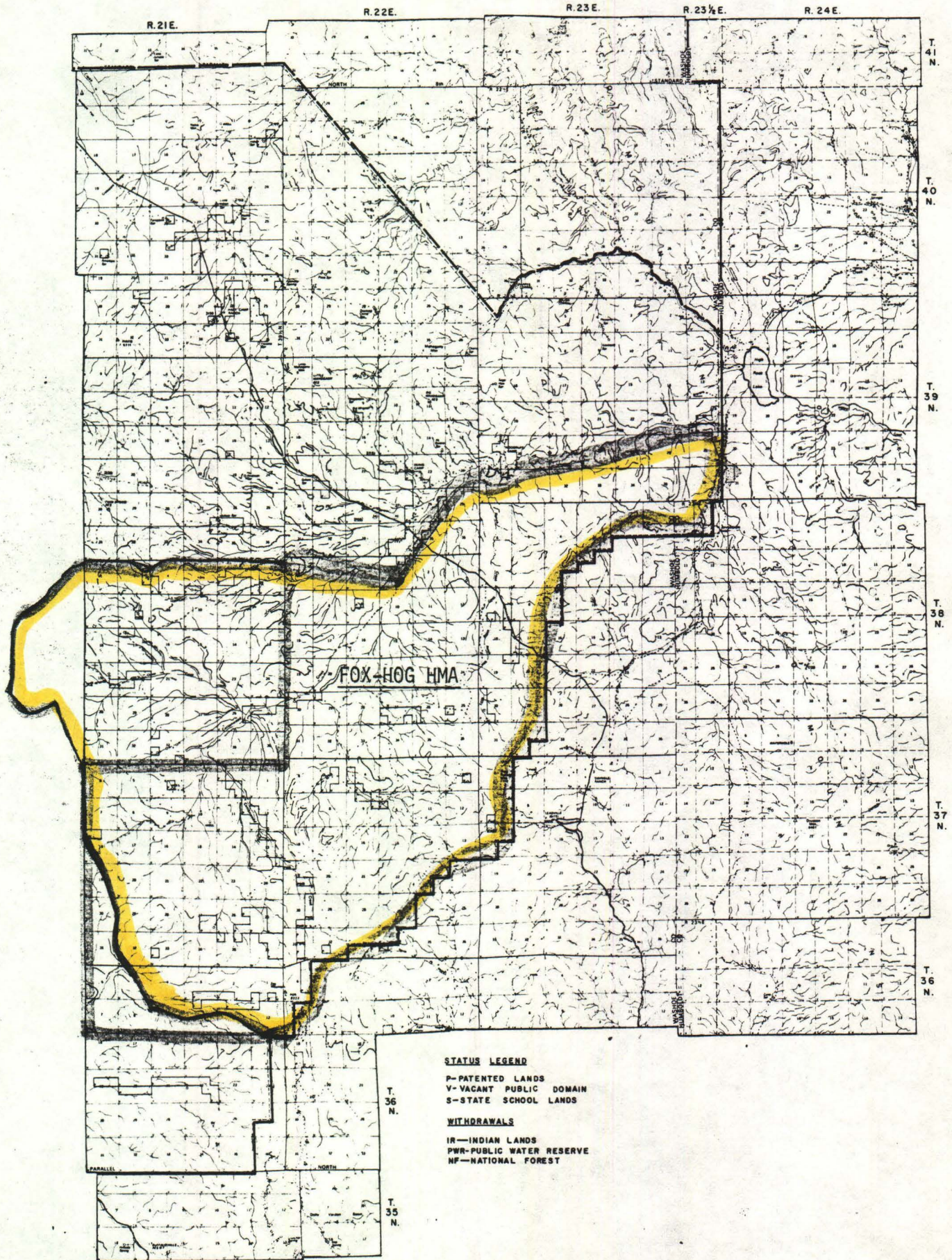


RESOURCE AREA	NUMBER	PLANNING UNIT
PIT RIVER	02-01	Alturas
	02-02	Hayden Hill
	02-03	Madeline
EAGLE LAKE	02-04	Willow Creek
	02-05	Honey Lake
	02-06	Beckworth
	02-07	Cal-Neva
SURPRISE	02-08	Tuledad
	02-09	Home Camp
	02-10	Mossacre
	02-11	Cowhead
	02-12	Sheldon
CARSON CITY-DIST, NEVADA	03-40	Long Valley

- 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 4 BOUNDARY
- NATIONAL FOREST
- NATIONAL PARKS & MONUMENTS
- INDIAN LANDS
- WILDLIFE REFUGE
- MILITARY RESERVATION
- PRIVATE LANDS
- VACANT PUBLIC DOMAIN
- NATIONAL CONSERVATION AREA
- NATIONAL MANAGEMENT AREA



would be given to livestock until such time as the total preference is reached for livestock. Once the permittees' total preference has been reestablished any increases delineated for livestock and horses will be shared equitably between the two uses.

#### C. Other Resources

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

The Fox-Hog HMA is part of the Bare livestock grazing allotment. This Allotment is operating under a rest-rotation grazing management system. This system results in late season use, July 15 to October 15, every year with 1,200 cattle in the Fox-Hog HMA.

In addition to the renewable resource values mentioned, portions of the HMA are being explored for locatable minerals, primarily gold and silver. The exploration has to this date resulted in several new roads and over fifty test holes in the area east of Grassy Reservoir.

### III. OBJECTIVES

1. Maintain a healthy and viable wild, free-roaming horse herd in the Fox-Hog HMA.
2. Maintain a minimum of 50 head and maximum of 75 head of wild horses through periodic removal.

### IV. MANAGEMENT METHODS

The Fox-Hog Herd will be gathered to the minimum herd size of 50 head. The herd will be gathered when horse numbers reach or exceed 75 head. Horses will not be selected for any special criteria. They will be removed from the herd as they are captured; (gate cut).

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

#### A. Sex Ratio

The Fox-Hog Herd will consist of 25 males and 25 females when the horses are gathered to minimum management levels. This sex ratio is assumed to exist in undisturbed wild horse herds.

Attempts will be made to maintain the 1:1 ratio each time the herd is gathered. This will be done by removing equal numbers of male and female horses.

B. Removal

Wild horses in the Fox-Hog Herd will be captured and removed whenever numbers reach or exceed 75 head. The herd will always be reduced to a minimum of 50 head. Only those horses needed to reduce numbers to management levels and to reestablish sex ratios will be captured.

The maintenance of horse numbers at management levels will insure proper stocking rates on the range and thereby assist in maintaining a healthy and viable herd.

V. EVALUATION AND REVISION

A. Evaluation

The management methods for the Fox-Hog 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 would 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. 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 10% would be considered a problem.
3. Aerial herd counts will be used to determine herd size and removal needs.

B. Revisions

Upon completion of annual evaluations, minor revisions may be 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 Fox-Hog Herd Management Area Plan, additional monitoring data collected for the Bare Allotment Management Plan, will be incorporated into the HMAP evaluation. Similarly, data gathered for the Fox-Hog HMAP will be incorporated into the Bare AMP.

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

Proposed revisions or modifications in the Bare AMP or the Fox-Hog HMAP will be evaluated as to their effect on each respective plan prior to a decision being finalized.

Any management decisions made regarding one of these Plans, will be evaluated as to its effect on the other.

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).

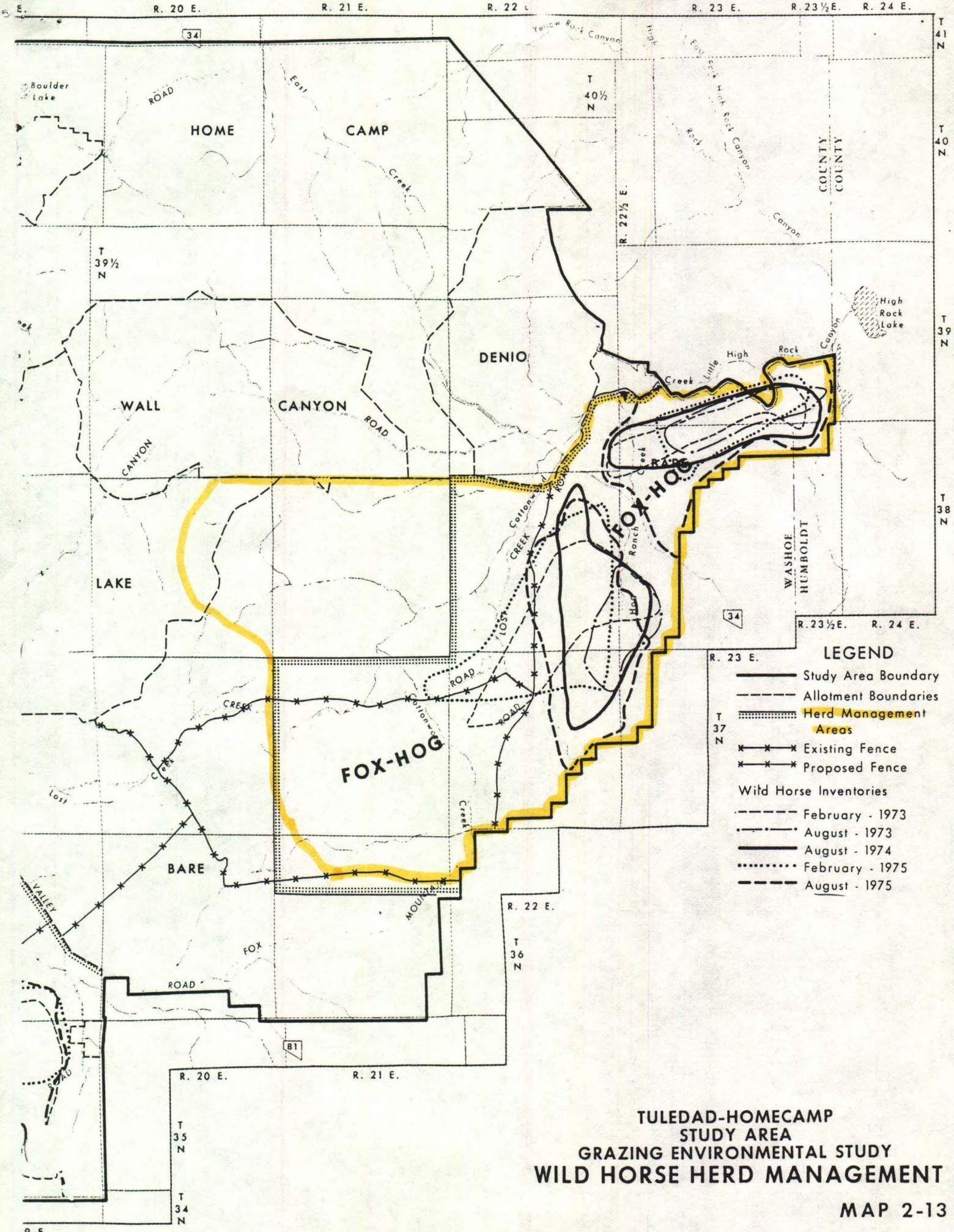
Lee Delaney  
Area Manager

7/11/84  
Date



HABITAT TYPES FOR FOX-HOG UNIT HORSES

<u>Habitat Type</u>	<u>Habitat Type No.</u>	<u>Present Range Condition</u>	<u>Acres</u>	<u>Percent of Total Acres</u>
<u>Summaer 1975</u>				
Big sage/squirreltail-Indian ricegrass	6	Fair	13,400	46.2
Low sage/bluegrass-squirreltail	21	Excellent	10,280	35.4
Big sage/Idaho fescue	7	Fair	<u>5,320</u>	18.3
			29,000	
<u>Winter 1975</u>				
Big sage/squirreltail-Indian ricegrass	6	Fair	8,800	51.6
Low sage/bluegrass-squirreltail	21	Excellent	6,440	37.8
Big sage/Idaho fescue	7	Fair	1,120	6.6
Big sage/Great Basin wildrye	5	Fair	<u>680</u>	4.0
			17,040	



- LEGEND**
- Study Area Boundary
  - - - Allotment Boundaries
  - ▨ Herd Management Areas
  - ××× Existing Fence
  - ××× Proposed Fence
  - Wild Horse Inventories
  - - - February - 1973
  - · · August - 1973
  - August - 1974
  - · · February - 1975
  - - - August - 1975

**TULEAD-HOMECAMP  
STUDY AREA  
GRAZING ENVIRONMENTAL STUDY  
WILD HORSE HERD MANAGEMENT  
MAP 2-13**