

BUCKHORN HERD MANAGEMENT
AREA PLAN

Surprise Resource Area
Susanville District

1984

I. LOCATION

The Buckhorn Herd Management Area (HMA), 71,680 acres, lies 40 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 of the lands are inaccessible by vehicle.

The major vegetative sites are low and big sagebrush with scattered juniper-big sagebrush throughout. The major use area for horses is on the low sagebrush sites. Observations have shown that this herd depends on the low sagebrush sites heavily during the winter months. Use area dependencies are illustrated in Appendix Attachment #1.

The HMA is bounded to the north by Tuledad Canyon. This natural barrier discourages interchange between the Buckhorn horses and the Coppersmith horses in the HMA to the north. The southwestern boundary is the Tuledad-Cal Neva allotment boundary fence. This fence, constructed in 1967, is in good condition. There is little interchange between the horses of the two allotments. Most of the interior fences in the allotment are located away from the horse use areas. The only exception is the Cottonwood Burn Rehabilitation Fence, which is located on the southwest side of the HMA.

II. RESOURCE INFORMATION

A. Wild Horse Use History

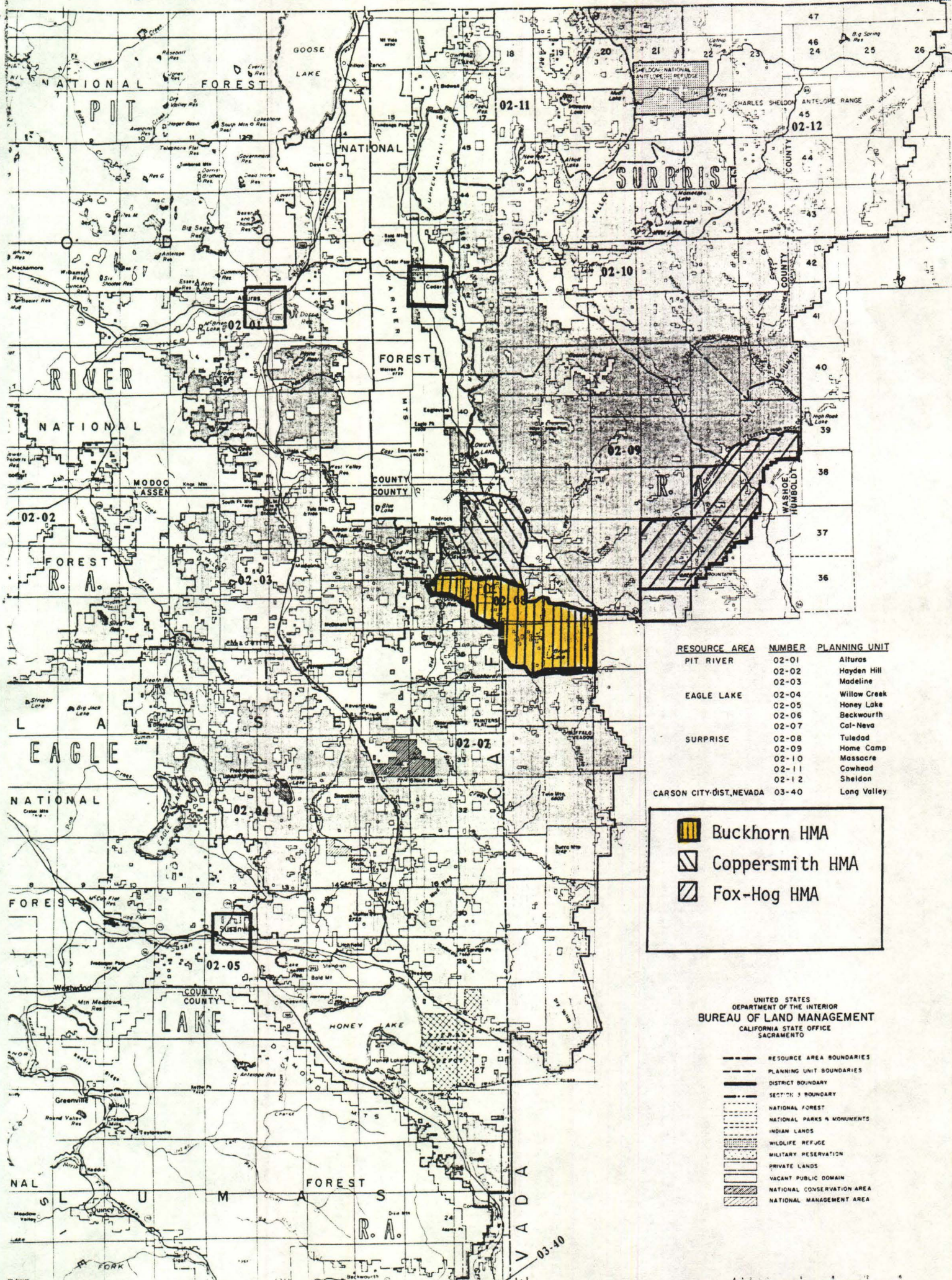
The Susanville District Wild Horse and Burro Plan provides a general history of the wild horses in the District.

B. Land Use Plan

The Tuledad/Home Camp Environmental Impact Statement was completed in 1978. Land use decisions were made from this 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 Buckhorn HMA and the Coppersmith HMA. A maximum number was never established.

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, Buckhorn and Coppersmith, for a minimum of 50 head and maximum of 75 head (100 to 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

O R E G O N



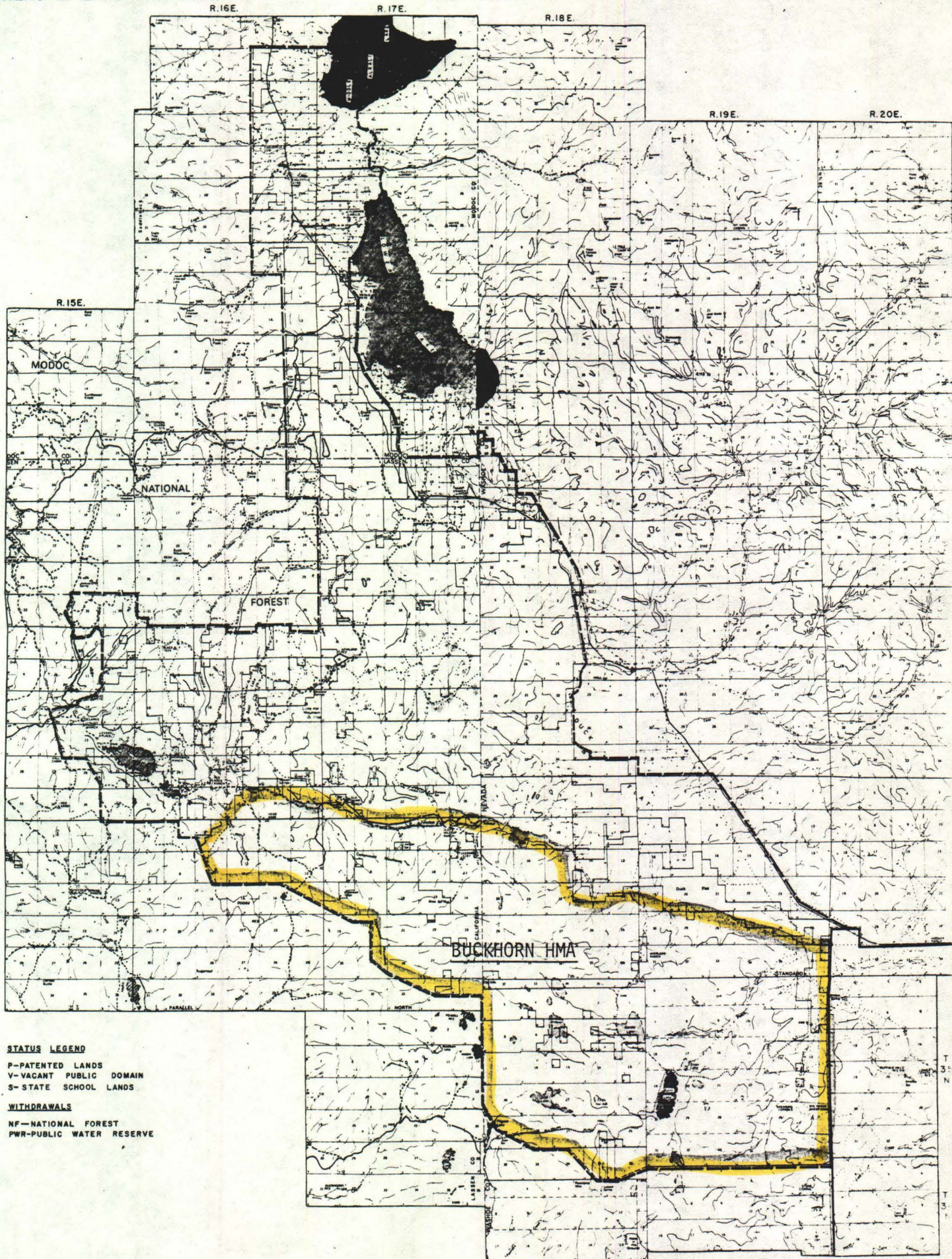
RESOURCE AREA	NUMBER	PLANNING UNIT
PIT RIVER	02-01	Alturas
	02-02	Hayden Hill
	02-03	Madeline
EAGLE LAKE	02-04	Willow Creek
	02-05	Honey Lake
	02-06	Beckworth
	02-07	Cal-Neva
SURPRISE	02-08	Tulead
	02-09	Home Camp
	02-10	Massacre
	02-11	Cowhead
	02-12	Sheldon
CARSON CITY-DIST, NEVADA	03-40	Long Valley

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

03-40



STATUS LEGEND

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

WITHDRAWALS

- NF-NATIONAL FOREST
- PWR-PUBLIC WATER RESERVE

0-08-3

DRAWING NUMBER

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.

C. Other Resources

The Buckhorn 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 Buckhorn HMA is located in the Tuledad Allotment. This Allotment is divided into two pastures for livestock management purposes. The Buckhorn HMA encompasses the entire South Pasture and a small portion of the North Pasture. 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.

Two 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 the 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 Buckhorn 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 animals.
4. Provide a highly adoptable horse for the Adoption Program through the selection of horse 4 years and under for adoption.
5. Reduce inbreeding problems through the introduction of new animals into the herd from other wild free-roaming horse herds.
6. Provide at least two full years rest on the Cottonwood Mountain Burn Area through grazing exclusion.

IV. MANAGEMENT METHODS

A base herd of fifty (50) horses will be established in the Buckhorn 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 horses. 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 for the Buckhorn HMA will be as follows:

1. Quality

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

2. Color

- a) All colors will be acceptable for the Buckhorn HMA. However, preference towards paints, sorrel, palimino, gray and roan will be given. Generally working away from blacks and bays.
- b) Dark or black hooves will be preferred over light or white hooves.

3. Size

A fifteen hand or taller horse is preferred.

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

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 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.

The sex ratio will assist in the production of a larger number of highly adoptable, young horses. This sex ratio will result in a degree of inbreeding, however this will be offset by the introduction of new horses into the herd.

C. Removal

Wild horses in the Buckhorn 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 wild free-roaming horse produced outside the herd. Replacement horses will meet the selection criteria described in this Plan.

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

Wild horses will be taken out of the Cottonwood Burn Rehabilitation Exclusion whenever necessary for at least two years. Problem horses returning to the burn area would be relocated or removed permanently from the HMA.

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. The removal and relocation of horses from the Cottonwood Burn will allow for adequate rest and rehabilitation of the burn area.

D. Age Structure

An exact age structure is not planned for the Buckhorn 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 Buckhorn Area.

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

V. EVALUATION AND REVISION

A. Evaluation

The management methods for the Buckhorn 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, horseback, pickup truck, and by foot.

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 Buckhorn Herd. Horses removed from the Herd will be monitored through the Adoption Program.

Information gathered through these observations will be recorded 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% will be considered a problem.
3. Aerial herd counts would 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 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 Buckhorn 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 Buckhorn HMAP will be incorporated into the Tuledad AMP.

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

Proposed revisions or modifications in the Tuledad AMP or the Buckhorn 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).

Doc Delaney
Area Manager

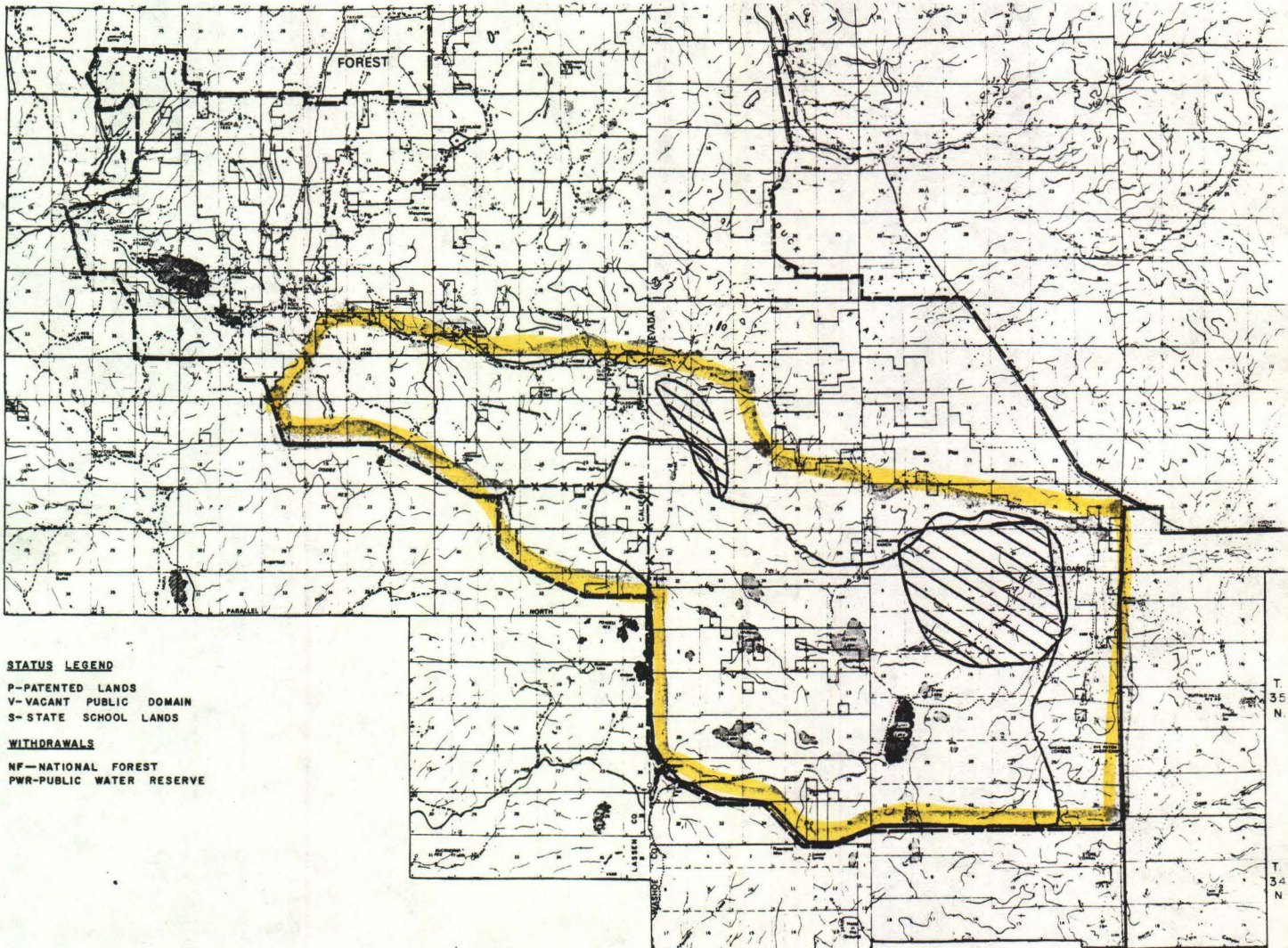
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Date

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>	

BUCKHORN HMA

- Summer Use Area
- ▨ Winter Use Area
- * Fence



NUMBER:04-020-08-3

BUCKHORN HMA
BASE HERD IDENTIFICATION

ID#	DATE MARKED	BRAND	SEX	AGE	COLOR	PHOTO#	REMARKS
		High Hip "O"	F	5	Bay/white Pinto	Roll 1 # 2	Returnee S. Saare refers to horse as J. Casey mare. Had been freeze marked on neck.
80204614	10-15-86	O	F	6	Red Roan	# 4	Painter Flat horse added to herd.
86204505	10-15-86	NONE	F	5mo	Dun/white Pinto	# 5	Freeze mark on neck. (No O brand until older). Little High Rock horse added to herd.
86204762	10-15-86	NONE	F	5mo	Sorrel/white Pinto	# 6	Freeze mark on neck. No O brand until older. Little High Rock horse added to herd.
76204758	10-15-86	O	F	10	Red Roan/white Pinto	# 7	Freeze mark on neck. Little High Rock horse added to herd.
	10-15-86	O	F	2	Gray	# 8	Returnee
	10-15-86	O	F	7	Sorrel	# 9	Returnee
	10-15-86	O	F	3	Bay	# 10	Returnee
	10-15-86	O	F	11	Bay	# 11	Returnee

Mares O Brand High on Hip

BUCKHORN MARES

BUCKHORN HMA
BASE HERD IDENTIFICATION

ID#	DATE MARKED	BRAND	SEX	AGE	COLOR	PHOTO#	REMARKS
83204549	10-15-86	O	F	3	Dun/white Pinto	Roll #1 # 12 12	Freeze Mark on neck. Little High Rock horse added to herd.
	10-15-86	O	F	5mo	Bay	# 13 13	Returnee
	10-15-86	O	F	5	Sorrel (Strawberry Roan)	# 14 14	Returnee
	10-15-86	O	F	4	Buckskin	# 15 15	Returnee
	10-15-86	O	F	4	BAY	# 16 16	Returnee
	10-16-86	O	F	6	Chestnut	Roll #2 1	Returnee
	10-16-86	O	F	1	BAY	2	Returnee
	10-16-86	O	F	6	Gray	3	Returnee
	10-16-86	O	F	9mo	Bay	4	Returnee

BUCKHORN HMA
BASE HERD IDENTIFICATION

ID#	DATE MARKED	BRAND	SEX	AGE	COLOR	PHOTO#	REMARKS
	10-16-86	O	F	8	Palomino	5	Returnee
	10-16-86	O	F	6	Bay	6	Returnee
	10-16-86	O	F	1	Sorrel	7	Returnee
	10-16-86	O	F	5	Bay	8	Returnee
	10-17-86	O	F	2	Gray	9	Returnee
	10-17-86	O	F	14	Bay	10	Returnee
	10-17-86	O	F	11	Brown	11	Returnee
	10-17-86	O	F	5	Brown Bay	13	Returnee
	10-17-86	O	F	8	Dark Dun	14	Returnee

Buckhorn Mares

BUCKHORN HMA
BASE HERD IDENTIFICATION

ID#	DATE MARKED	BRAND	SEX	AGE	COLOR	PHOTO#	REMARKS
	10-17-86	O	F	5	Bay	15	Returnee
	10-17-86	O	F	7	Bay	16	Returnee
	10-17-86	O	F	1	Buckskin	17	Returnee
	10-17-86	O	F	1	Brown/white Pinto	18	Returnee
	10-17-86	O	F	5	Chestnut	19	Returnee
			F		Brown/white Pinto		Unable to capture; Remained in Buckhorn HMA.
			F		Brown/white Pinto		Ibid above
			F		Brown		Ibid above
			F		Bay	5mo	Belongs to the Brown mare not captured. Filly was not captured

Buckhorn Mares

BUCKHORN HMA
BASE HERD IDENTIFICATION

ID#	DATE MARKED	BRAND	SEX	AGE	COLOR	PHOTO#	REMARKS
			M	5mo	Sorrel		Unable to capture; Belonged to Pinto Mare.
	10-15-86	O	M	5mo	Bay/white Pinto	Roll #1 #2	Belongs to the J. Casey Mare. Returned to herd
86204577	10-17-86	NONE	M	5mo	Pinto Red Roan	Roll #2 12	Freeze mark on neck. Belongs Roan Pinto Mare. Little High Rock horse added to herd.
	10-20-86	O	M	7	Blaze Face Bay	Roll #3 1	Returnee
	10-20-86	O	M	5	Dark Bay	2	Returnee
	10-20-86	O	M	1	Sorrel	3	Returnee
	10-20-86	O	M	10	Blaze Face Chestnut	4	Large horse, obvious dominance in herd. Several offspring apparent. Returnee
	10-20-86	O	M	6	Bay	5	Returnee
	10-20-86	O	M	4	Bay	6	Returnee

O Grand Low on Hip

Buckhorn Studs

BUCKHORN HMA
BASE HERD IDENTIFICATION

ID#	DATE MARKED	BRAND	SEX	AGE	COLOR	PHOTO#	REMARKS
	10-20-86	O	M	5	Blaze face Sorrel	7, 8	Returnee; out of 10yr Chestnut Stud.
	10-20-86	O	M	7	Blaze face Sorrel	8, 9	Returnee; Ibid above
	10-20-86	O	M	7	Black	11 9, 10	Returnee
	10-20-86	O	M	6	Chestnut	12 8	Returnee; out of 10yr Chestnut stud.
	10-20-86	O	M	1	Rose Gray	13	Returnee
	10-20-86	O	M	5	Black Gray	14	Returnee
	10-20-86	O	M	6	star forehead Bay	15	Returnee
	10-20-86	—	M	2	Blaze face Sorrel	—	Broken left leg Had to be destroyed.

Buckhorn Studs

7/89

SUMMARY SUSANVILLE DISTRICT
HERD MANAGEMENT AREA PLANS

Herd Management Area: Coppersmith CA-261

Resource Area: Surprise

Management Framework Plan: Tuledad/Homecamp, 1978

Herd Management Area Plan Completed: July, 1984

Land Status: BLM 63,020 Private 7,740 Other 0 Total 70,760

Management Levels: Minimum 50 Mid-Point 63 Maximum 75

Sex Ratio of Base Herd: 15 Male/35 Female

Special Objectives:

1. Develop a highly adoptable horse for the Adoption Program.

Management Action - a) Select a base herd of wild horses for return to the herd area. These horses would have characteristics which have shown adoption success. b) Excess wild horses would be removed from the 4 year and under age class.

Evaluation - Based on adoptability success of excess wild horses from this herd.

2. Maintain a healthy and viable herd, while line breeding within the herd.

Management Action - Replace base herd horses from the herds excess, thereby restricting the gene pool.

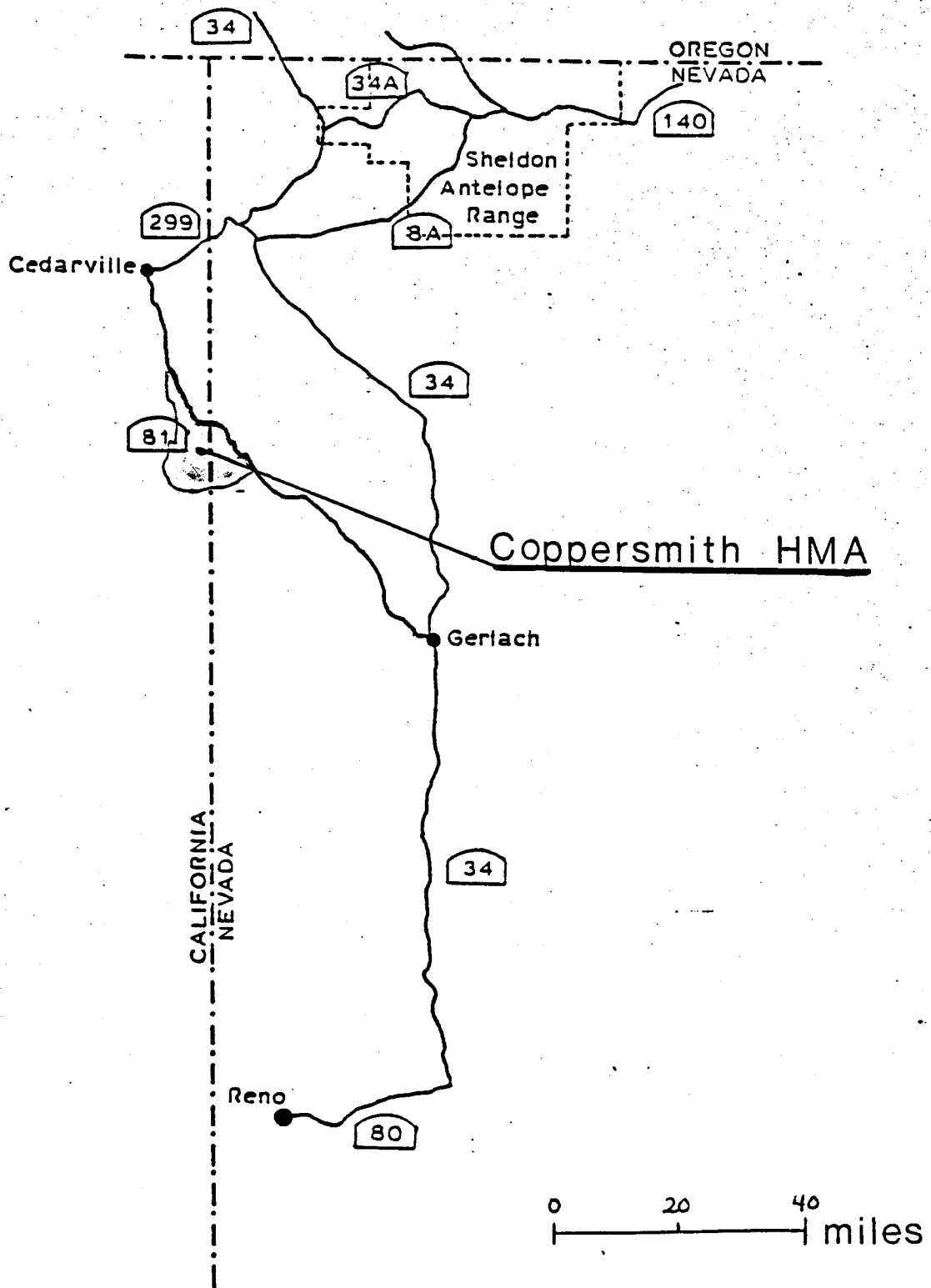
Evaluation - Viability (rate of increase) will be used as an indicator of herd health. A 13% or lower rate of increase will be considered a viability problem.

Other Resources:

1. This Herd Management Area is located in the Tuledad Grazing Allotment. The allotment provides forage for cattle and sheep and habitat for typical Great Basin species.
2. This area also provides critical deer winter range habitat for mule deer.

Comments:

1. Specific projects for this Herd Management Area have not been identified for these horses. Adequate water is available for wild horses in this area.
2. This herd is part of the Modoc/Washoe Experimental Stewardship Program's comparison of management methods on three HMA's in the Surprise Resource Area.
3. The base herd horses will be allowed to live out their lives in the Herd Management Area.



SUMMARY SUSANVILLE DISTRICT
HERD MANAGEMENT AREA PLANS

Herd Management Area: Buckhorn CA-262

Resource Area: Surprise

Management Framework Plan: Tuledad/Homecamp, 1978

Herd Management Area Plan Completed: July, 1984

Land Status: BLM 62,320 Private 3,320 Other 0 Total 65,640

Management Levels: Minimum 50 Mid-Point 63 Maximum 75

Sex Ratio of Base Herd: 15 Male/35 Female

Special Objectives:

1. Develop a highly adoptable horse for the Adoption Program.

Management Action - a) Select a base herd of wild horses for return to the herd area. These horses would have characteristics which have shown adoption success. b) Excess wild horses would be removed from the 4 year and under age class.

Evaluation - Based on adoptability success of excess wild horses from this herd.

2. Reduce the incidence of inbreeding problems.

Management Action - Replace base herd horses with wild horses from other areas. This will increase the gene pool.

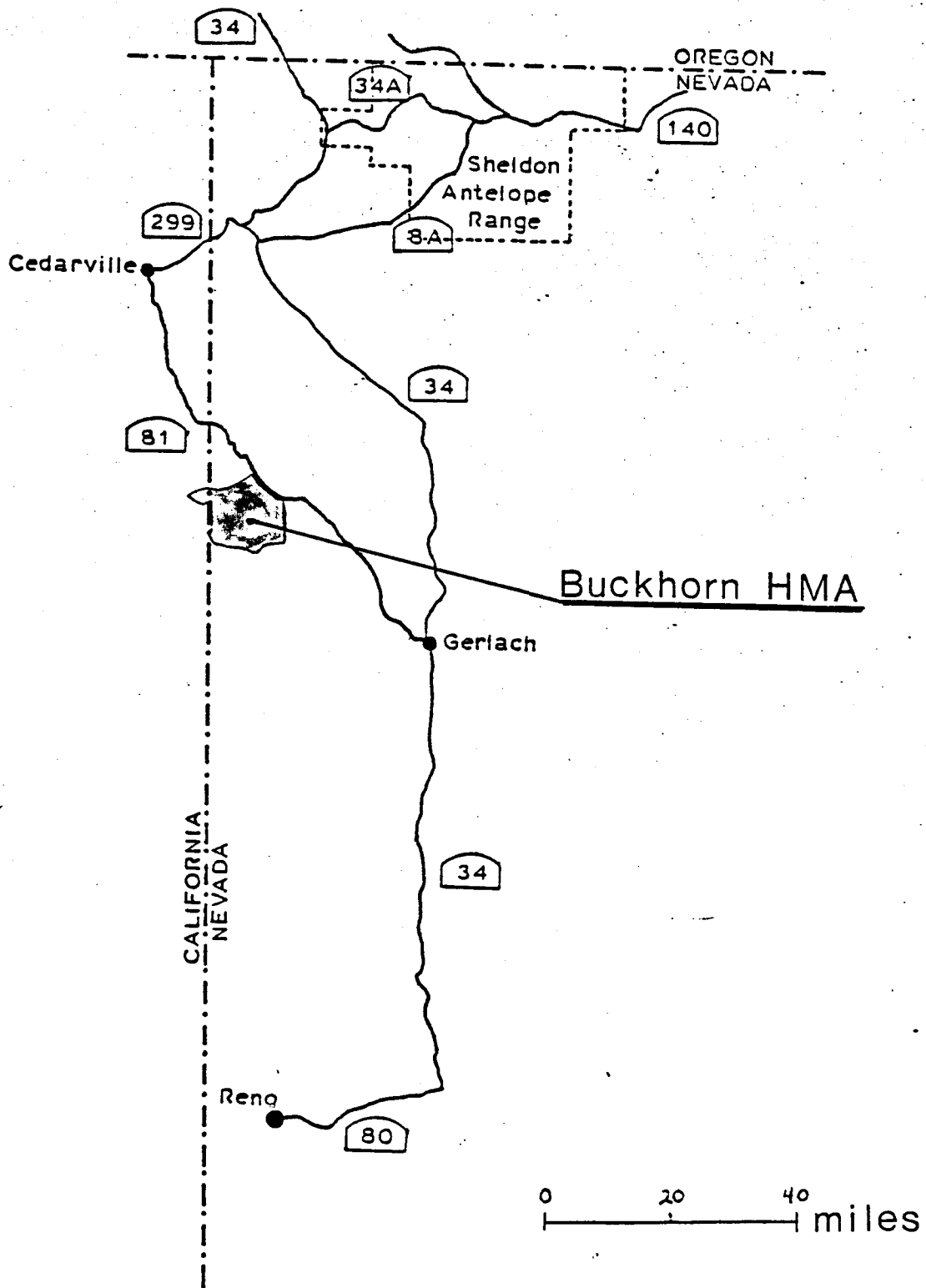
Evaluation - Viability (rate of increase) will be used as an indicator as well as visual observations regarding conformation and defects. A 13% or lower rate of increase will be considered a viability problem.

Other Resources:

1. This Herd Management Area is located in the Tuledad Grazing Allotment. The allotment provides forage for cattle and sheep and habitat for typical Great Basin wildlife species.
2. In addition, this areas also provides critical deer winter range habitat for mule deer.
3. Wild horses will be restricted from the Cottonwood fire rehabilitation area until the 1986 grazing season.

Comments:

1. Specific projects for this Herd Management Area have not been identified for these horses. Adequate water is available for wild horses in this area.
2. This herd is part of the Modoc/Washoe Experimental Stewardship Program's comparison of management methods on three HMA's in the Surprise Resource Area.
3. The base herd horses will be allowed to live out their lives in the Herd Management Area.



SUMMARY SUSANVILLE DISTRICT
HERD MANAGEMENT AREA PLANS

Herd Management Area: Fox-Hog CA-263

Resource Area: Surprise

Management Framework Plan: Tuledad/Homecamp, 1978

Herd Management Area Plan Completed: July, 1984

Land Status: BLM 113,800 Private 5,480 Other 0 Total 119,280

Management Levels: Minimum 50 Mid-Point 63 Maximum 75

Sex Ratio of Base Herd: 15 Male/35 Female

Special Objectives:

Other Resources:

This Herd Management Area is located in the Bare Allotment. This allotment provides forage for cattle and habitat for typical Great Basin wildlife species.

Comments:

1. This herd is part of the Modoc/Washoe Experimental Stewardship Program's comparison of management methods on three HMA's in the Surprise Resource Area.
2. The Fox-Hog herd will be the control herd for the experiment. No special management will be done. Control of numbers is the only specific management objective. No selection of horses will be done on this herd.
3. This area has adequate year round water for wild horses.

