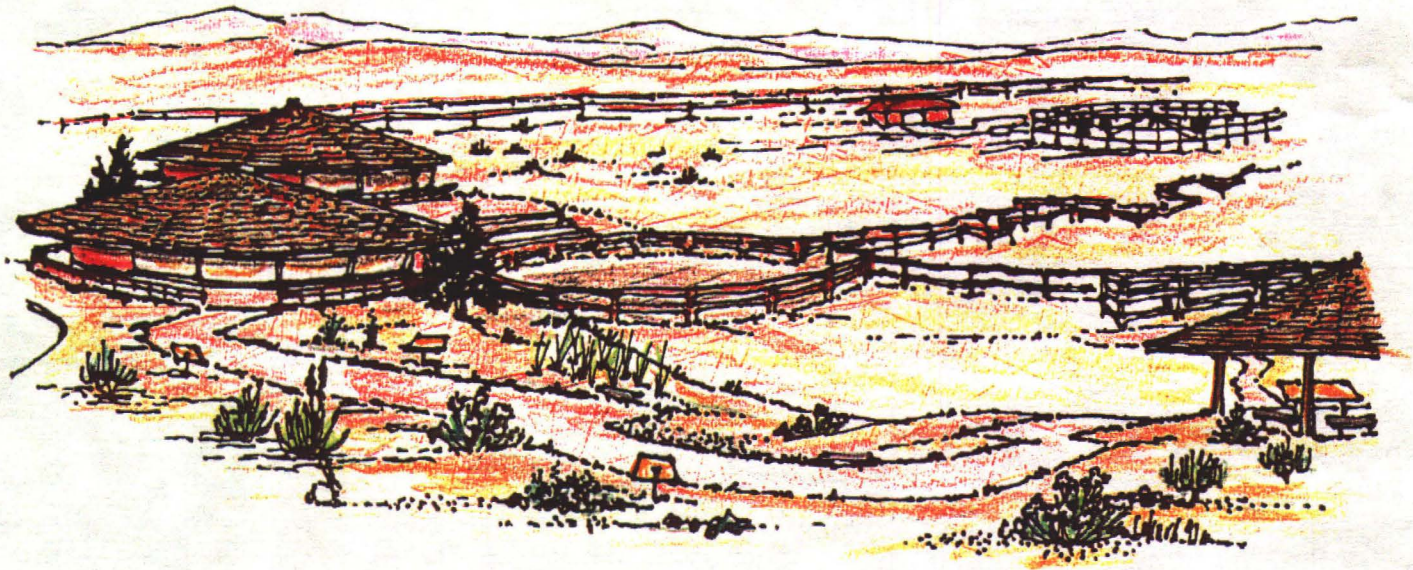




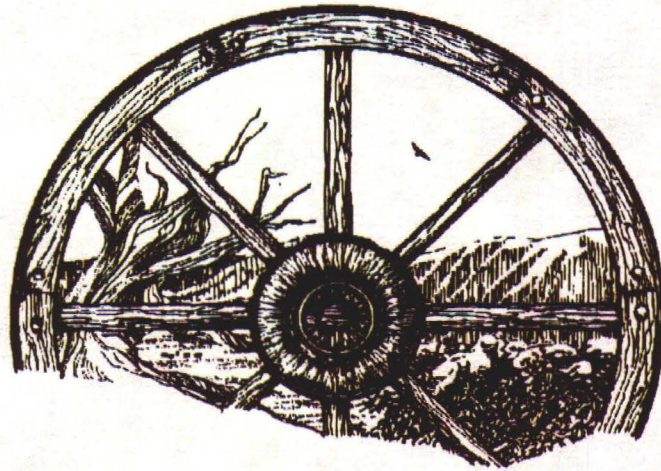
BUREAU OF LAND MANAGEMENT
NEVADA

NATIONAL WILD HORSE AND BURRO CENTER



DRAFT

OCTOBER 1991

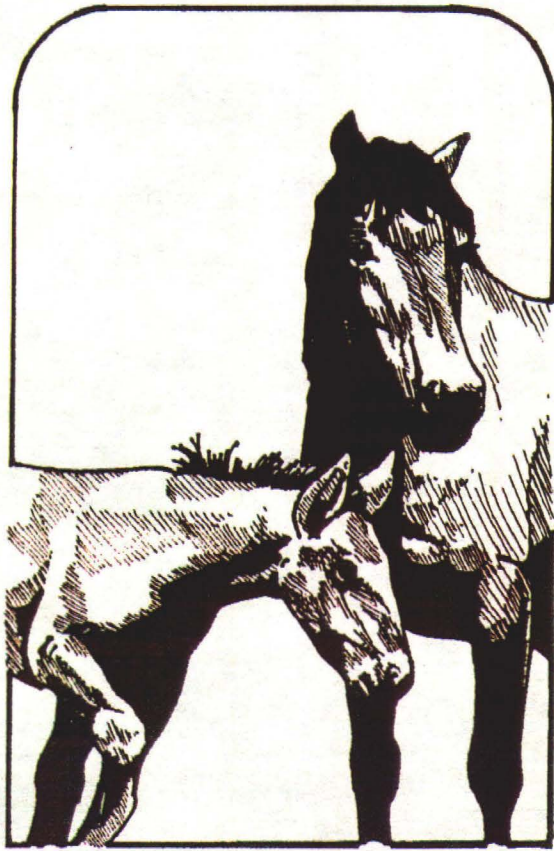


**Wild horse. The Old West.
A romantic, adventurous past. Indians. Settlers.**

Prospecting for gold. A miner and his burro.

**Wild horses and burros. What is the image we want for this
Living Legend?**

*"Congress finds and declares that
wild free-roaming horses and burros are living symbols
of the historic and pioneer spirit of the West;
that they contribute to the diversity of life forms
within the Nation and enrich the lives of the American
people."*



The purpose and goals of the **NATIONAL WILD HORSE AND BURRO CENTER** are:

-- **To be the professional center for wild horse and burro research in the Nation.** The Center will be the focal point for research and become the repository for publications and knowledge about the animals.

-- **To provide leadership in applied science and technology transfer as it applies to wild horse and burro management.** Rangeland monitoring techniques, gather techniques, population management and similar methods to arrive at a balance will be developed at the Center and applied to BLM-managed public lands.

-- **To educate and inform the public about the wild horse and burro.** This will be done via an Interpretive Center for visitors, through a Natural Setting drive-through area and by taking advantage of tours through the Working Facility.

-- **To be a showcase for the processing and handling of wild horses and burros gathered from Nevada ranges.** Modern, specially designed facilities will assure safe and humane treatment for the approximate 6,000 horses and burros brought to the Working Facility each year.

-- **To promote the adoption program and provide for a centralized dispatch of wild horses and burros to adoption sites throughout the Nation.** This would assure efficient distribution of horses gathered from the Western ranges to all adoption events. Animals gathered from Nevada ranges would be available for adoption at the Center.

-- **To provide a senior technical staff for the development of procedures and to facilitate national coordination for the wild horse and burro program.**



The U.S. Marine Corps Mounted Color Guard has an all wild horse unit composed of palominos gathered in Nevada.

The wild horse and burro are the only animals managed by the Bureau of Land Management (BLM). The horse, especially, conjures up strong emotion in the American public. The climate is right to put forth a major effort to **SHARE** the wild horse and burro program with the American public.

The wild horse and burro can be a strong force in enhancing the image of the BLM. We already have many Western wild horse success stories. To name two: the U.S. Marines and their Equine Marines and endurance champion Mustang Lady. Strong, positive images.

This proposal is to establish a **NATIONAL WILD HORSE AND BURRO CENTER** in Nevada.



National endurance champion Mustang Lady and her owner, Naomi Tyler.

Is there an interest in horses?

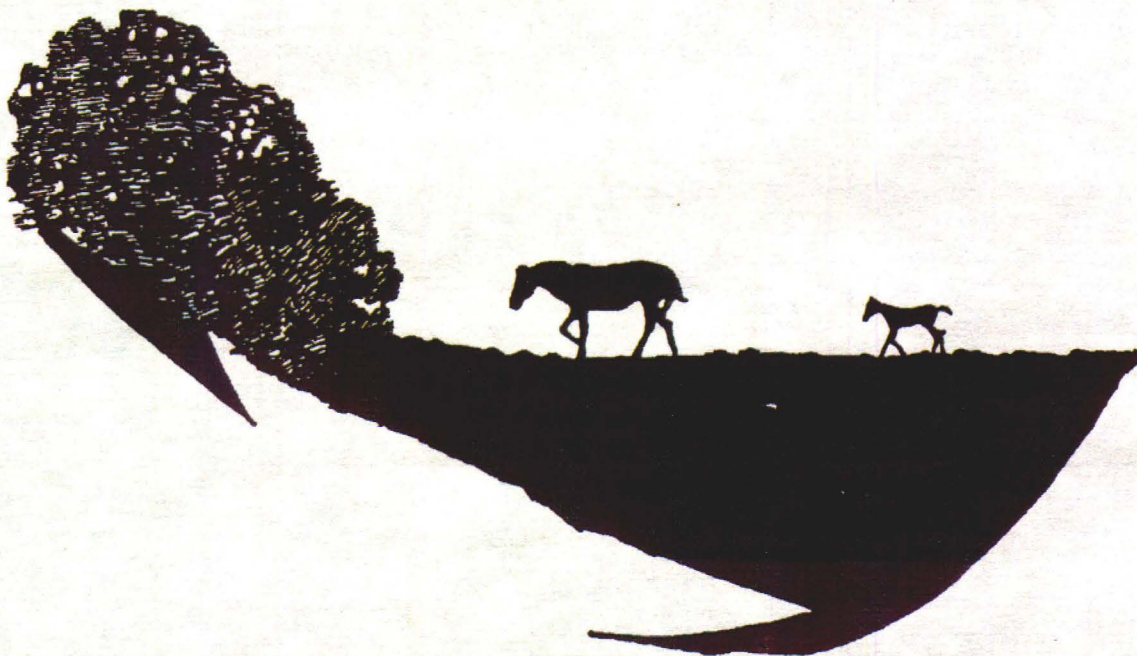
"According to the Department of the Interior, more than 27 million people over age 12 ride horses each year, 54% of whom ride on a regular basis and the remainder for occasional recreation....In 1989, there were 219,488 youth involved in horse projects through 4-H programs." (1990-1991 Horse Industry Directory)

The same Horse Industry Directory lists 32 pages of equine periodicals, directories and annuals. Dozens of these publications have articles on the wild horse and burro.

Nevada is home to most of the Nation's wild horses and burros. Most horses are located on the public lands administered by the BLM's Battle Mountain, Winnemucca, Las Vegas, Ely and Carson City Districts. Las Vegas District has the highest population of burros in Nevada. Horses are also found in the Elko District.

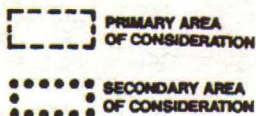
International publications; daily newspapers, both from metropolitan areas and from small cities; national magazines; national networks; syndicated columnists; statewide newspapers; and rural newspapers throughout the United States have visited Nevada in recent years to produce stories on the wild horse and burro. The stacks of clippings and film could fill a roomful of file cabinets. Unfortunately, the reason many came to discover the story about wild horses was negative -- unlawful acts against the wild horse. But, almost all who came to do a story left with a fondness for the Living Legend.

Let's tell the whole story: **the management of a LIVING LEGEND.**



Why Nevada?

Wild horses and burros are found in about 100 herd management areas. Nevada is home to two thirds of the Nation's wild horses and burros. It was the center of activity for the passage of the Wild, Free-Roaming Horse and Burro Act. It was the home of Wild Horse Annie.



Northern Nevada provides an ideal setting for a **NATIONAL WILD HORSE AND BURRO CENTER**. Already 12 to 15 million tourists visit the Reno-Sparks-Carson City-Tahoe area annually. Tourism is the area's leading industry, the **highest per capita rate of tourism** in the Nation.

The Reno-Sparks tourist market is 70 percent drive-in and 30 percent fly-in. Individuals are already seeking out the existing, but antiquated, Palomino Valley Wild Horse and Burro Placement Center. **The public interest is present; BLM need only capture the moment to inform, educate and make the wild horse part of the Western recreational experience.**

We recommend a search for a suitable piece of land within a 30-minute to 60-minute drive of Reno-Sparks. No less than two sections of land (1,280 acres) would be desirable for the Interpretive Center and the Working Facility. The Natural Setting would be located nearby. Public land may be available to meet part or all of this need.

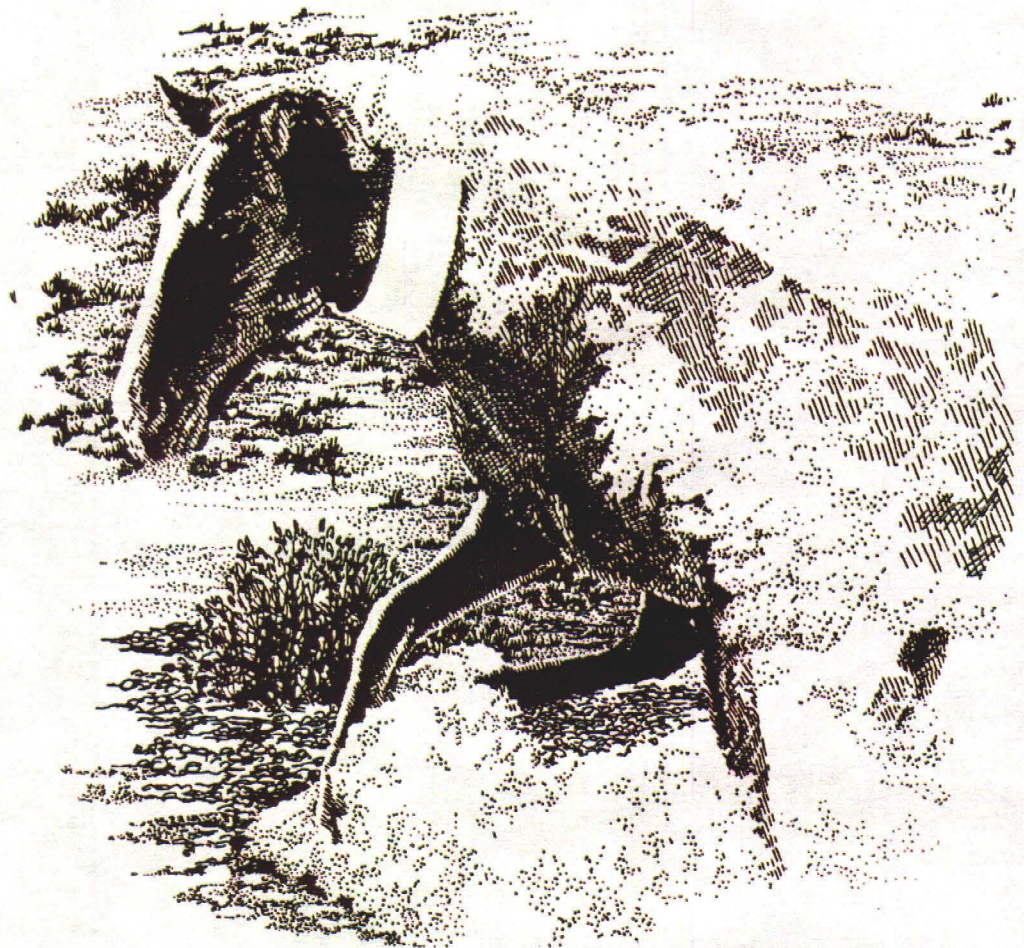
THE NATIONAL WILD HORSE AND BURRO CENTER would be a focal point for education, information, research, processing and recreation. It would consist of an Interpretive Center, a Working Facility and a drive-through Natural Setting. Conferences and scientific and research activities would be features of the Center. National procedures for the BLM's management of the wild horse and burro would emanate from the Center.

The goal of this proposal is to have all aspects of the **NATIONAL WILD HORSE AND BURRO CENTER** fully functional for a 1996 dedication, the 25th Anniversary of the 1971 Act which calls for protecting and managing Wild and Free Roaming Horses and Burros.

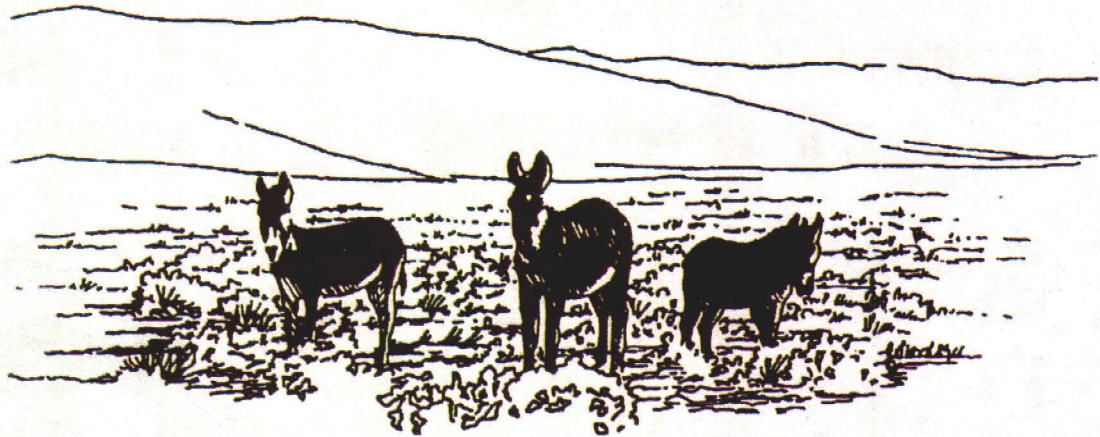
SCIENTIFIC RESEARCH

The BLM and its National Advisory Board and many members of the scientific community recognize the need for wild horse and burro research. It is logical that this Center provide laboratories and research facilities. Professionals associated with the BLM, and other accredited and recognized entities all could be accommodated here.

The **NATIONAL WILD HORSE AND BURRO CENTER** should have a library filled with as much material as possible about wild horses and burros. Scholars, writers, college students and school children would all have access to wild horse and burro literature and records in one location.



LEADERSHIP IN APPLIED SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY



With research being headquartered at the Center, it is logical to disseminate that knowledge to the field from the Center. Types of information and techniques might include guidance for habitat management, standards for processing facilities, techniques for population management and monitoring methods.

CONFERENCE CENTER

Adjacent to the public interpretive section will be an auditorium for seminars, conferences and special activities. This conference facility would see national symposiums and forums on the wild horse and burro. Training sessions and workshops would be held in the heart of wild horse and burro country -- for the BLM and for other agencies whose management touches on the horse.

Of course, there would be display space provided near the conference section of the Interpretive Center. With an active volunteer group and interpretive staff, the art shows, the equestrian displays will be never ending.

INTERPRETIVE CENTER

Visitors would enjoy a state-of-the-art presentation on the wild horse and burro story: the 1971 Act, the animals' lives on the range, what they eat, how they are managed, how an animal can become a friend for life when adopted and properly gentled.

Displays and exhibits would concentrate on such topics as:

- Archaeological history of the horse.

- Missionaries and explorers role in the animals' introduction.

- The burros role in exploring the West.

- Indians relationship with the horse.

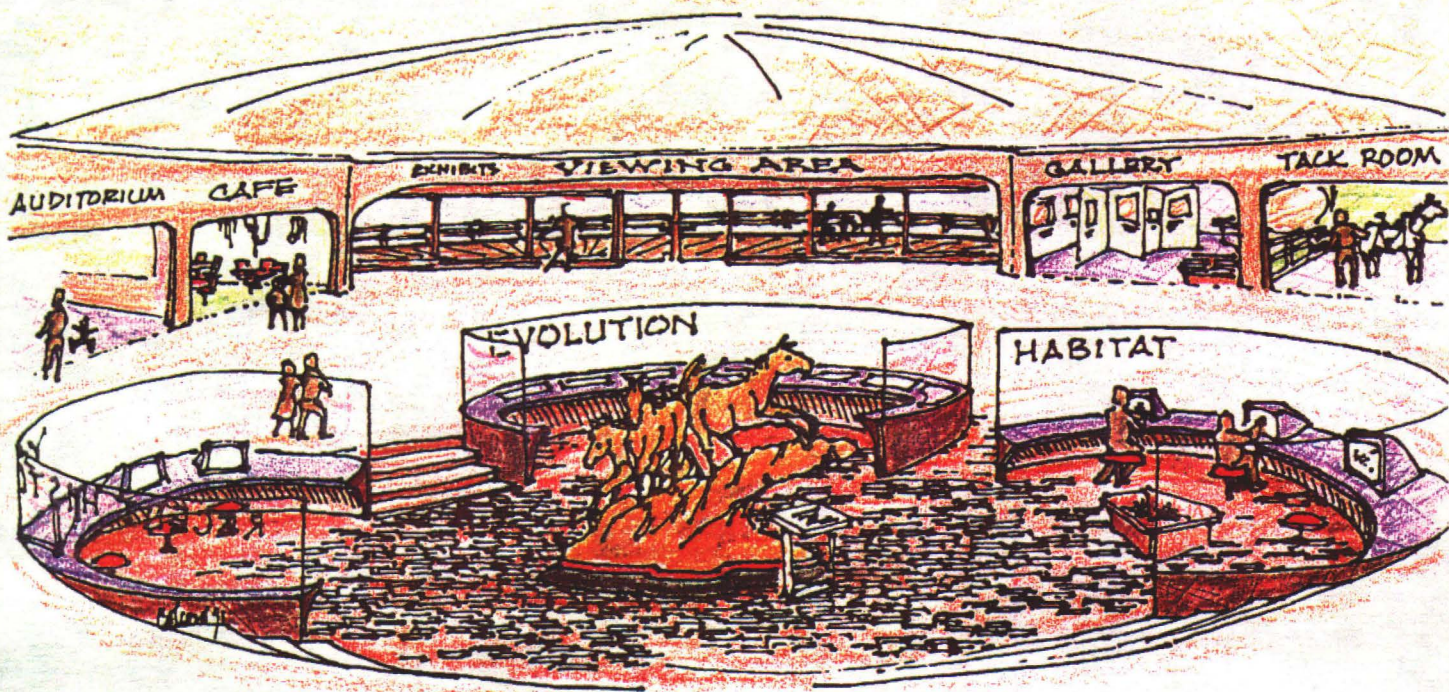
- Miners-farmers-ranchers use of and contribution to present wild horse characteristics.

- Location of herds, i.e., herd management areas, ranges.

- History of the 1971 Act.

- Gathering, adoption and training.

- Tack recommended for wild horses; tack of the past.



With the assistance of a strong volunteer program, visitors would be greeted and given an overview brochure of the facility. Trained interpreters would be on hand to give tours of the Working Facility and to answer questions about a myriad of aspects of the wild horse and burro program.

Bashkir Curleys, palomino horses, draft horses, friendly burros -- all would be available to view all year long.

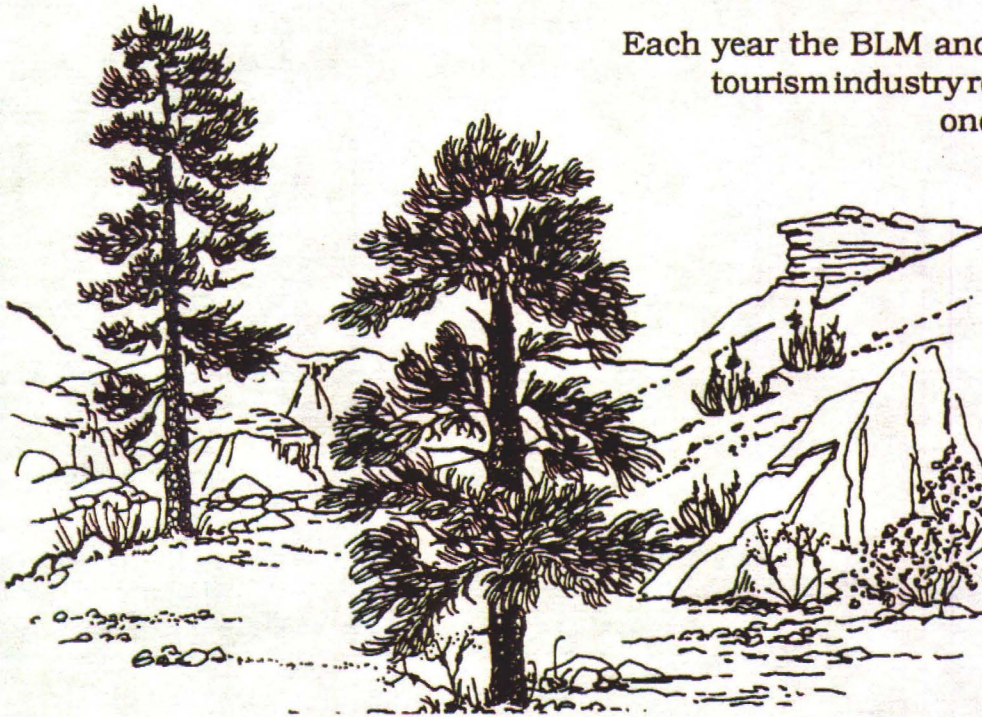
School children and their teachers would flock to the Center for annual field trips, in even greater numbers than now visit the Palomino Valley facility. Scouting groups, 4-H members, and other groups could all be accommodated. And, don't forget the adults!

Reno-Sparks is convention haven, and among the audience are the adults who are interested in equines. The Farm Bureau, the Cattlemen's Associations, the American Bowling Conference, the Soil Conservation organizations -- all have been visitors in the past at Palomino Valley.

From past experience with the wild horse and burro program, there will be a strong interest from volunteers. From the onset, there will be provisions for a cooperative association to sell keepsakes. A concessionaire should also be contracted to run a coffee shop in the Interpretive Center.

THE NATURAL SETTING

Each year the BLM and others involved in the tourism industry receive calls asking where one can view a wild horse and burro herd.



The **NATIONAL WILD HORSE AND BURRO CENTER** can provide one of those experiences.

Adjacent to or nearby the Interpretive Center and Working Facility will be a drive-through area where one can observe a few

bands of wild horses in a natural-type setting. This area would display interpretive signs explaining to the visitor some of those terms which seem so far away to many Americans -- multiple use, sustained yield, range improvements.

The drive-through section should illustrate the best in rest rotation grazing, the latest in range improvements and serve to enhance the Bureau of Land Management's image as a range manager.

SENIOR TECHNICAL STAFF

A senior technical staff would have at its disposal the facility's resources for research. These individuals would assist with the development of procedures and facilitate national coordination for the wild horse and burro program.

WORKING FACILITY SHOWCASE

The **NATIONAL WILD HORSE AND BURRO CENTER** will have corrals and buildings designed especially to care for the Nation's wild horses and burros.

The Working Center will be capable of holding about 2,000 wild horses and burros. Shelters and fences will be six to seven feet high, with vision blocks as appropriate. Rounded pipes, poles, hardwood and other suitable materials will make this the Nation's wild horse and burro showplace.

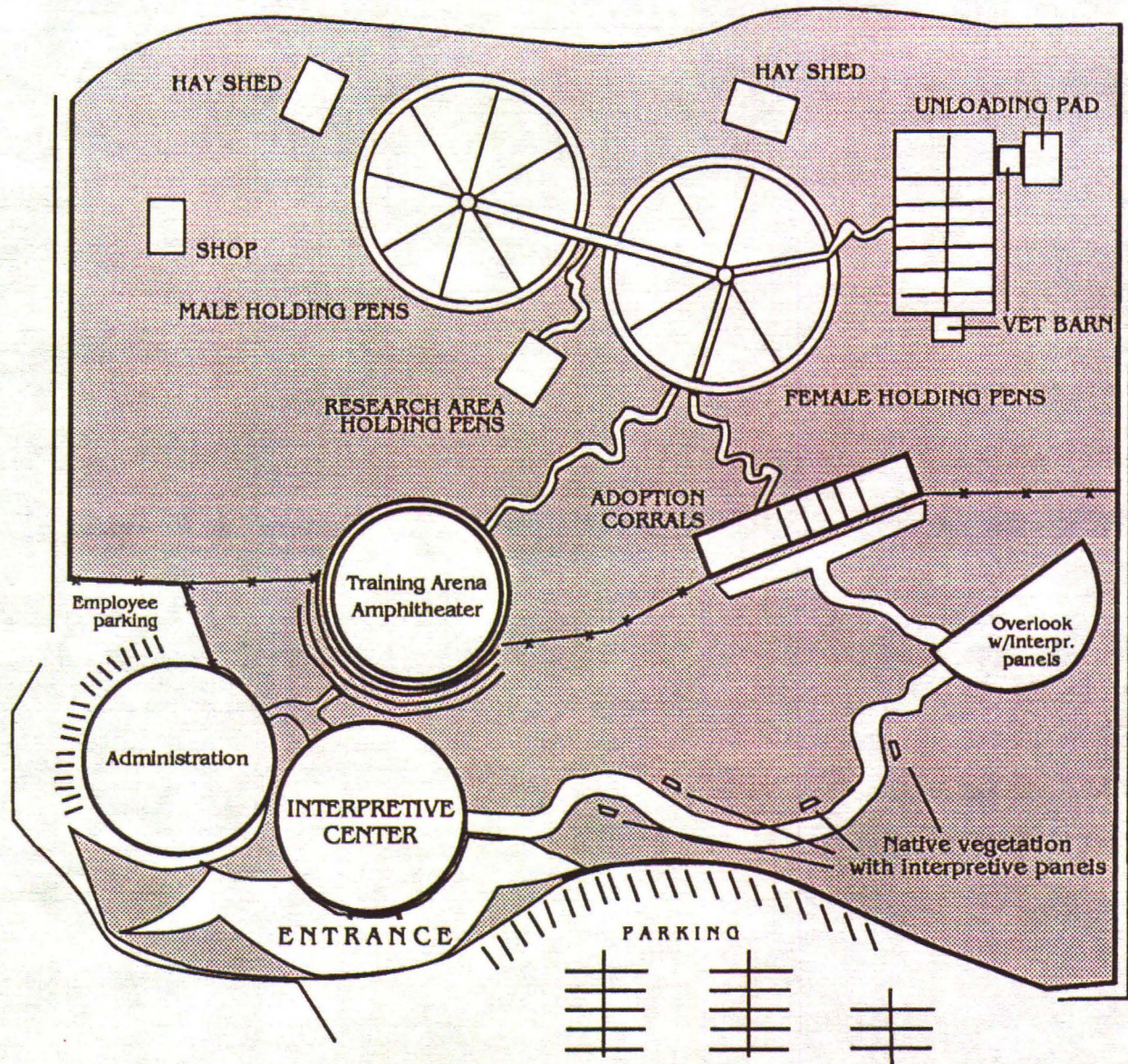
At least two covered buildings would be used for Working Center operations. One would be to process animals and the other to perform operations such as hoof trimming and gelding. Tour routes for the public to view some of these operations would be planned into the facility.

Entrance to the Working Facility would be separate from the Interpretive Center for safety and security reasons, and also to prevent dangerous traffic situations (large truck meets passenger automobile).

Of course, hay storage, vehicle storage areas, maintenance shops, veterinary facilities and employee headquarters would all be a part of the **NATIONAL WILD HORSE AND BURRO CENTER**.



NATURAL HABITAT AREA NEARBY



ARENA, GRANDSTANDS

Permanent or portable arenas and grandstands in the working area could be used for training demonstrations and other special events. With careful design, this area can be dual purposes -- serving those in the Working Center and available for public events sponsored by the BLM.

CENTRALIZED NATIONAL ADOPTION

The Center would provide promotional materials based on plans to increase adoptions nationwide. A centralized dispatch would coordinate and provide for safe, humane and efficient distribution of animals from all BLM facilities to scheduled adoptions throughout the United States.