

1984

"A Comparison of Management Approaches for Three  
Wild Free Roaming Horse Herds in the Surprise Resource Area"

MODOC/WASHOE EXPERIMENTAL STEWARDSHIP COMMITTEE

1984

## PREFACE

In June, 1982 the Modoc/Washoe Experimental Stewardship Committee identified a need for information (through experimentation) regarding the management and adoptability of wild free-roaming horses. The Modoc/Washoe Wild Horse Sub-Committee assigned a technical committee, consisting of Jim Clapp, Dawn Lappin, Sharon Saare and Bill Phillips to develop an experiment comparing methods of wild horse management and the subsequent effects on wild horse adoptability.

The comparison which follows is a result of the technical committee's effort. The three Herd Management Area Plans which are attached were developed by the Bureau of Land Management personnel to reflect the elements of the sub-committees comparison.

The Modoc/Washoe Experimental Stewardship Committee reviewed and approved the comparison without amendment on March 15, 1984.

Implementation of the comparison by the Bureau of Land Management will be subject to funding levels for the Susanville District's Wild Horse and Burro Program.

OUTLINE

- I. INTRODUCTION
- II. THE COMPARISON
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  - B. Description
  - C. Implementation
  - D. Data Collection
  - E. Conclusion
- III. ATTACHMENTS
  - A. Wild Horse and Burro Position Paper
  - B. Buckhorn HMAP
  - C. Coppersmith HMAP
  - D. Fox-Hog HMAP

## INTRODUCTION

This is a comparison of the functional management concepts addressed in the June, 1982 Modoc/Washoe Experimental Stewardship Committee's Position Statement on Wild Horses and Burros.

On the ground management approaches will be compared to evaluate their efficiency in improving the management of the Wild Horse and Burro Program in the Modoc/Washoe Experimental Stewardship Area. The comparison is not designed as a research project, but is expected to provide functional type of information that could be applied in other areas.

## GOAL

The general goal is to compare different management approaches for improving the adoptability of the Wild Free-Roaming Horse, through the BLM Adoption Program, while maintaining a healthy and viable herd on the public rangelands.

The specific items to be compared between each of the three management approaches include

1. Adoptability of excess wild horses,
2. Effects of inbreeding verses outbreeding,
3. Herd health,
4. Herd viability,
5. Herd manageability, and
6. Management and adoption costs by herd.

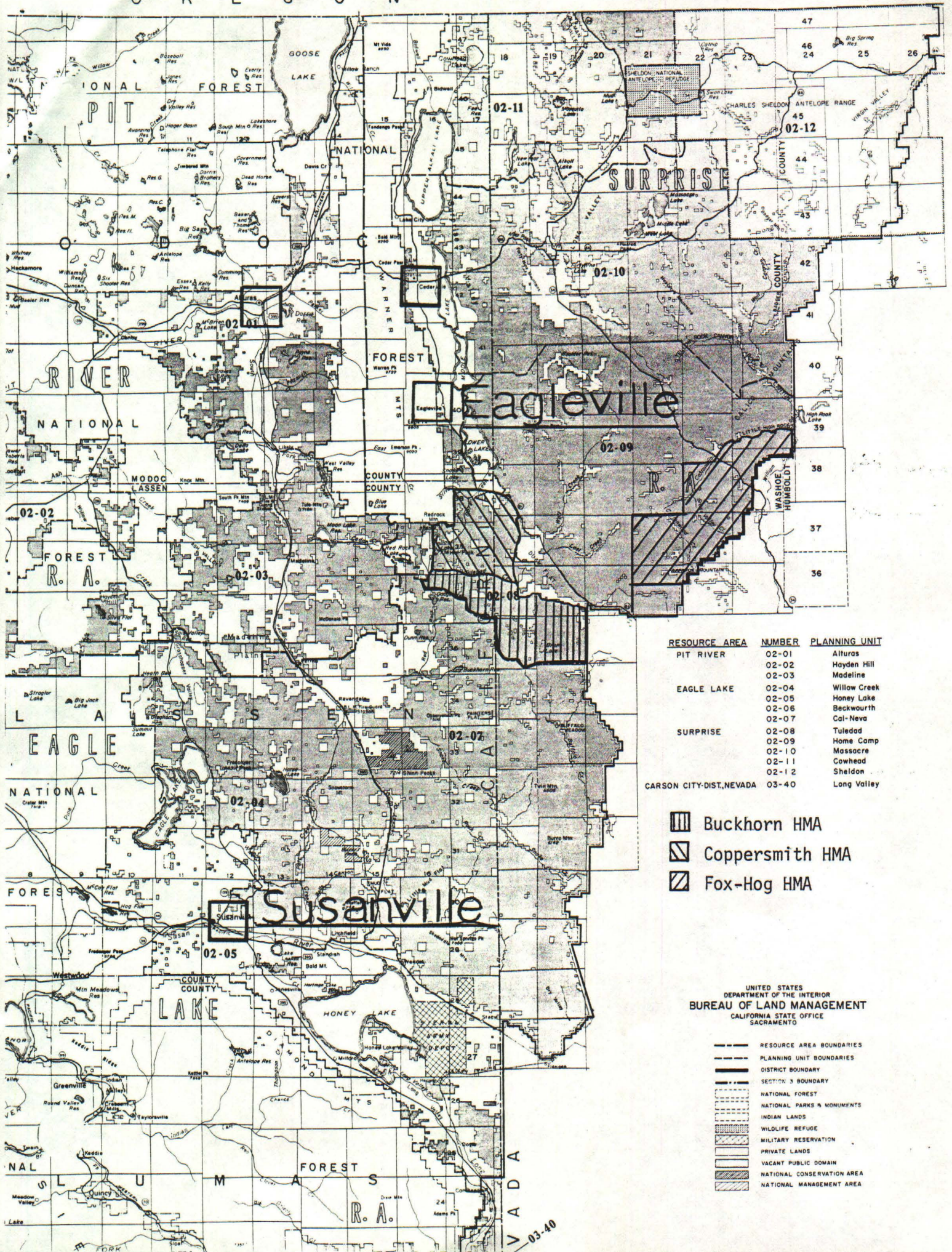
## DESCRIPTION

The comparison utilizes three management approaches. Each management approach will be described in the respective Herd Management Area Plans. These plans are attached to and part of this comparison. The three herds to be compared are the Buckhorn Herd, the Coppersmith Herd and the Fox-Hog Herd. Each herd will be managed for a population of 50-75 horses.




Table 1-1 illustrates the contrasting management elements to be compared in each of the three herds.

TABLE 1-1  
ELEMENTS FOR COMPARISON














ELEMENT	BUCKHORN HMAP	COPPERSMITH HMAP	FOX-HOG HMAP
Minimum Herd Size	50 Horses	50 Horses	50 Horses
Maximum Herd Size	75 Horses	75 Horses	75 Horses
Base Herd Sex Ratio	15 Male to 35 Female	15 Male to 35 Female	25 Male to 25 Female
Removal Criteria	1. Base Herd horses remain in herd area entire life. 2. Remove horses 4yr and younger.	1. Base Herd horses remain in herd area entire life. 2. Remove horses 4yr and younger.	1. No Base Herd; Horses are removed as they are captured. 2. No age criteria.
Breeding	Outbreeding	Intensive Inbreeding	Inbreeding
Conformation	Selected in Base Herd	Selected in Base Herd	No Selection
Type	Light or Saddle Horse	Light or Saddle Horse	No Selection
Size	15 Hands or Taller, Preferred	15 Hands or Taller, Preferred	No Selection
Color	Select for various colors	No Selection	No Selection
Hooves	Prefer dark or black color	Prefer dark or black color	No Selection



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

### IMPLEMENTATION

The following steps will be required for the implementation of this comparison.

1. Each herd will be gathered to the minimum management level of fifty (50) head.
2. The Buckhorn and Coppersmith Herds will be gathered in total. It will be necessary to gather the two herds entirely to allow for the selection and removal process to take place.
3. Marker horses will be determined and documented for each of the three herds.
4. The base herds, in Buckhorn and Coppersmith, will be marked with a hip brand "B" or "C" respectively and with a freeze brand number on the neck. Each horse will be photographed and cross logged with their respective identification number.
5. Excess animals must be tracked from time of capture until they are adopted.
6. The heritage of the animals will be identified whenever possible.
7. Excess animals from each of the three herds should be offered for adoption at the same time and location.
8. Written records will be kept regarding personnel, equipment, and special management needs for each of the Herd Management Area Plans.
9. Records will be kept on each herd for the associated management costs.
10. Tracking forms will be developed to organize information collected in each of the Herd Management Area Plans.

#### DATA COLLECTION

Data will be gathered and documented on forms provided in the Herd Management Area Plans. In addition to completing forms, the BLM staff will submit periodic memorandums regarding the management of the three herds.

Data will be evaluated for each of the management approaches through the Herd Management Area Plan evaluation process.

#### CONCLUSION

Conclusions regarding the effectiveness of each management approach will be made as information warrants. An annual report will be made on the operational aspect of the comparison and will draw conclusions on those management elements showing discernable results. A final report will be developed upon completion of the comparison.