



DEPARTMENT OF CONSERVATION AND NATURAL RESOURCES
COMMISSION FOR THE
PRESERVATION OF WILD HORSES
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Dear Dawn,

Wanted to brief you on the last two meetings I attended on the Nellis Range Management Plan (RMP) that has been mandated by Congress for BLM to complete within the next year. As you can imagine, (which seems quite ridiculous given the multitude of issues on Nellis) all of the meetings have centered around wild horse use, area of use, and past and future management.

The issue and other meetings have centered around the fact that the range was established with a MOU with the BLM and Military. I am sure you are more aware than anyone how this all transpired. The general consensus now is that the 71 "Act" superseded the MOU and does require that the BLM should have identified the HUA/HA boundaries on Nellis in the 70's and then further identified and established a HMA. This has never been clearly documented and established. There has been much discussion over verbage in many documents throughout the years. All involved feel this RMP would be the proper vehicle to identify the HUA and then further delineate the HMA to be managed for the best interest of the horses.

The major problem here is that the verifiable documentation as to "where" the horses were in 71 is sketchy at best. There are those that want to limit the horses back to the original range which we all realize is not where they want to be. To establish a HMA first requires the HUA identified. All of this of course will be mailed out to the public for review by BLM once all the documentation can be reviewed and correlated.

I feel this will be a good approach because based on the current recommendations from Gary McFadden and Alan Shepherd, the horses could be managed on an HMA established for their needs, including seasonal migration, using current survey information.

The big problem in this is the establishment of the HUA without data and there are those (NDOW) that want the horses limited back to the old range. They are challenging the minimal data that has been presented. BLM and others have been trying to contact those that might have "memories" of where the horses were located. All agreed there could be none better for that than you and they have asked me to contact you regarding this. The big question is "do you have any data in memory and/or your archives that will help in establishment of the HUA and subsequent HMA."

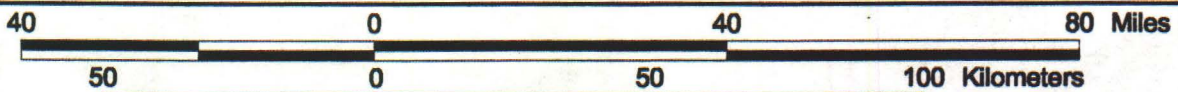
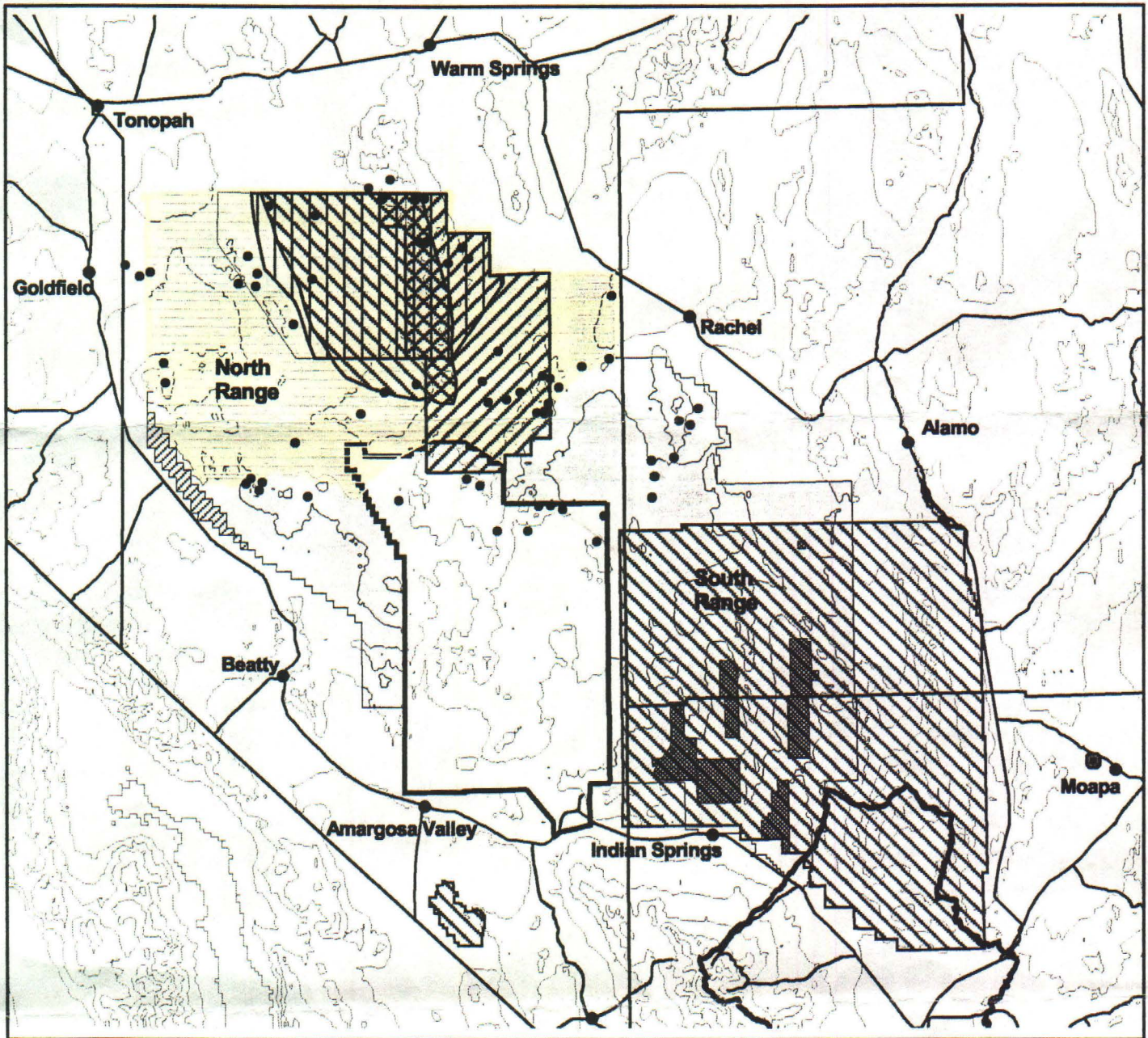
I will be attending another meeting for this purpose on Aug. 29th in Vegas. If you have anything that you want me to relay, I would be happy to do so. Another option is Brad Schultz from DRI who has been requested to take all of the current information and put it on GIS prior to the next meeting for review. Instead of reviewing 20 maps they will be putting all of the information into one, including census info, water availability, etc. His number is 775-673-7440 and is here in Reno. Another option would be for you to contact Gary McFadden in Vegas or Alan in Caliente with any verbal or written documentation that you have. The best option is probably Brad since he will be doing the mapping and he is here in Reno.

Just so you know, basically everyone (except NDOW) is in agreement to try to identify the HUA and then establish an HMA based on the needs of the herds. Discussions have been positive and in the spirit of trying to identify needs and avoid ever experiencing emergencies in the future. Water has been a major discussion but with the establishment of the HMA a concentrated effort can be made to enhance and develop what the needs are for the herds viability at number for range and herd health.

Attached is a map showing some of the alternatives that have been suggested. Gary feels that the "North Range" is the HUA and felt he had adequate documentation for that. Unfortunately, he doesn't so if you can help in any way, please let Gary or Brad know. Hope you are feeling better.

Cathy

Regional Location Map Nevada Test and Training Range Wild Horse Alternatives



Legend

- Communities
- Moapa Valley National Wildlife Refuge
- Springs and Reservoirs on the North Range
- Air Pollution Non-Attainment Basin
- Tonopah Test Range
- Wild Horse Alternative B
- 1971 Wild Horse Use Area
- Nevada Wild Horse Range
- Wild Horse Alternative A
- Impact Zones
- Non-renewal Area
- Pahrangat National Wildlife Refuge
- Ash Meadows National Wildlife Refuge
- Desert National Wildlife Refuge
- NTS Boundary
- Major Roads and Highways
- County Boundaries
- 400 Meter Contours
- Nevada Test and Training Range

NTTR Boundary data obtained from the NTTR Range Management Office.

Wild Horse alternative boundaries are approximate - derived from data provided by the BLM Tonopah Office and BLM Las Vegas Office.

Map Revision Date: July 31, 2000

