

Nellis

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Wild Horse File
(11-650)

State Director, Nevada

May 13, 1970

District Manager, Las Vegas

Tour of Wild Horse Range by Miss Hope Ryden

On April 27, 1970, Miss Hope Ryden called the District Office from New York, explaining that she would be in Nevada to tour the Wild Horse Range located in the Nellis A.F.B. Bombing and Gunnery Range. Miss Ryden has written an article for the National Geographic Society on the Wild Horse Range and needed some color photographs of wild horses.

Miss Ryden arrived in Las Vegas on April 30, 1970, and contacted the office, stating she had obtained clearance with both Sandia Corp. and Nellis A.F.B.

James Brunner and Dave Walter met Miss Ryden and an accompanying National Geographic Society Staff photographer, Dick Durrance, at Tonopah the evening of May 1, 1970. On May 2 and May 3, Walter and Brunner escorted Miss Ryden and Durrance in the areas around Silver Bow south to Cedar Pass on the west side of the Kawich Range. Numerous bands of wild horses were seen and photographed at Silver Bow Springs, Log (Pole) Springs, Tunnel Spring, Corral Spring, Wild-horse (White Spot) Spring and Cedar Spring. All springs except Tunnel were supplying adequate stock water. It is doubtful that Tunnel Spring can be developed to any greater degree, but a collection box may help.

During the following week, Miss Ryden spent a day in the Caliente area with Emery Conaway, where she obtained photographs of wild horses and bones from a dead horse with Spanish ancestry. From Caliente Miss Ryden went to Yerington, where she met with Steve Pelligrini, University of Nevada, Reno, and photographed horses in the vicinity of Mt. Grant.

On May 8, Miss Ryden and Mr. Durrance met Walter and Brunner at Silver Bow and spent the weekend again photographing bands of wild horses. About 125 head of horses were counted in Stone Cabin Valley, North of the Wild horse range, in the vicinity of Golden Arrow. The horses, about 13 harem bands, were all outside the Wild Horse Range and on public land in the Battle Mountain District. This area has really been grazed, both by cattle and horses.

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Approximately 274 head of horses, in 57 bands were counted on the west side of the Kawich Range from Silver Bow to Cedar Pass on Sunday a.m.

Miss Ryden was very pleased with her trip and indicated that many good shots of wild horses had been provided by BLM personnel. She also stated that the horses looked in good condition and was pleased with the amount of water available. Photographs will be furnished to BLM by Miss Ryden as a result of her tour.

After leaving Las Vegas, Miss Ryden will travel to Reno to see Wild Horse Annie (Velma Johnson) thence on to the Pryor Mountains Horse Range.

Range conditions were fairly dry. Soil is wet at 4", but the area is still cold. Indian ricegrass is about 4" tall, squirrel-tail is 1-2" tall, bluegrasses are 1-2" tall, and galleta grass has not green-up yet.

The horses are running in the big flat to the west of the horse range. Many of them are watering in the creek below Silver Bow Springs as the water is running down the creek about 1 mile. They are trailing 5-15 miles to water.

There is a small resident herd, 2-3 bands (20 horses) on Pole (Log) Springs. These pot-holes should be deepened to provide more storage. Considerable numbers of horses water here when storms push them off the flat.

Tunnel Spring should be provided with a good collection box.

Corral Spring should be provided with a good collection box and the original spring, about 50 yards northeast should be developed and piped to the present development. The pipe below the valve at the trough should be replaced and properly buried.

Cedar Pass Spring should be developed with water at the source. The line is broken about $\frac{1}{2}$ mile from the source and no water is getting to the trough.

A spring, we named White Spot (may be Wild Horse Spring) was found in Sec. 15, T.2S., R.50E. This was an old development with a small trough. We saw 25 head of horses and 13 antelope watering here. This should be developed as several hundred head use this water. Currently animals are watering from the seeps on the ground.

There may be water in the big draw in Sec. 34-35, T.1S., R.50E. We saw 4 bands enter the trees.

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In general, there is sufficient water at this time. We should shape up several developments to avoid public criticism. The horses are in good condition. Miss Ryden noted 2 lame mares of the 100 horses seen at close range.

We did not have time to examine the east side of the Mustang Range or the waters.

Total estimates of horse population in the area, not just on the Mustang Range, must exceed 400 head as this number was counted on Sunday a.m. in 2 different areas. An unknown number of horses were not seen and counted.

DJWalter, JRBrunner/bad