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WILD HORSE MANAGEMENT AREA

Nellis Air Force Base and Bureau of Land Management

Cooperative Management Program

1. Justification

Because of the deep concern expressed by a large number of people in regard to preservation of wild horses, and the need to manage and control their use, an area within the boundaries of the land withdrawn for the Nellis Air Force Base, Nevada, has been identified as a suitable wild horse area. The area is presently being used by wild or abandoned horses by their own selection. The horse use is not inconsistent with the needs of the Air Force and will not compete with established use by domestic livestock as the domestic livestock use has been withdrawn from the area. Identifying the area for horse use will provide an area which can be managed for the horses and their habitat. It is reliably estimated on the basis of counts made by the State Fish and Game Department that more than 200 wild horses now run in this area. This approximate number of wild horses will be maintained as long as their use of the range remains in balance with the forage resources available. The horses using this area will be considered as a feral animal and will be managed and protected in a similar manner as wildlife that use the public lands.

Program

a. U.S. Air Force Activities

Establish a liaison officer to work with the Bureau of Land Management in scheduling wild horse management activities within the area. After appropriate scheduling with the liaison officer, the Bureau of Land Management shall have access to

the area during the following times:

- (1) All regular weekend periods of Air Force inactivity.
- (2) For special periods for management activities, when previously coordinated and not to interfere with scheduled training activities conducted by the units assigned or attached to Nellis Air Force Base.

b. Bureau of Land Management Activities

The Bureau of Land Management will cooperate with the Air Force and the Nevada State Game and Fish Commission in managing the range and maintaining the proper number of horses to utilize the area. The Bureau will inspect, if necessary, the condition of the horses and their habitat, and will initiate studies that may be necessary to determine the trend in range conditions. By cooperation with Nevada State and County officials, the control of the desired number of horses to use the range will be achieved.

3. Description

The area described by townships and ranges with reference to the Mount Diablo Base Line is as follows:

T 1 S, R 49 E, E 1/2; T 1 S, R 50 E All; T 2 S, R 50 E, All;  
T 2 S, R 51 E, All; T 3 S, R 50 E, All; T 3 S, R 51 E, All;  
T 3 S, R 51-1/2 E, All; T 3 S, R 52 E, All; T 4 S, R 50 E, All;  
T 4 S, R 51 E, All; T 4 S, R 51-1/2 E, All; T 4 S, R 52 E, All;  
T 5 S, R 50 E, E 1/2; T 5 S, R 51 E, All; T 5 S, R 52 E, All;  
T 5 S, R 53 E, W 1/2, T 6 S, R 50 E, E 1/2; T 6 S, R 51 E, All;  
T 6 S, R 52 E, All; T 6 S, R 53 E, NW 1/4; T 7 S, R 50 E, NE 1/4;  
T 7 S, R 51 E, N 1/2; T 7 S, R 52 E, NW 1/4.

The area as described by longitude and latitude is as follows:

Beginning at a longitude of  $116^{\circ} 04'$  and a latitude of  $37^{\circ} 43'$   
thence west on the same latitude to a longitude of  $116^{\circ} 13'$ ;  
thence north on the same longitude to a latitude of  $37^{\circ} 49'$ ;  
thence west on the same latitude to a longitude of  $116^{\circ} 20'$ ;  
thence north on the same longitude to a latitude of  $37^{\circ} 54'$ ;  
thence west on the same latitude to a longitude of  $116^{\circ} 30'$ ;  
thence south on the same longitude to a latitude of  $37^{\circ} 49'$ ;  
thence east on the same latitude to a longitude of  $116^{\circ} 26'$ ;  
thence south on the same longitude to a latitude of  $37^{\circ} 33'$ ;  
thence east on the same latitude to a longitude of  $116^{\circ} 23'$ ;  
thence south on the same longitude to a latitude of  $37^{\circ} 19'$ ;  
thence east on the same latitude to a longitude of  $116^{\circ} 11'$ ;  
thence north on the same longitude to a latitude of  $37^{\circ} 21'$ ;  
thence east on the same latitude to a longitude of  $116^{\circ} 07'$ ;  
thence north on the same longitude to a latitude of  $37^{\circ} 23'$ ;  
thence east on the same latitude to a longitude of  $116^{\circ} 04'$ ;  
thence north on the same longitude to the point of beginning.

Approximately 394,500 acres are enclosed within the boundaries described above.

APPROVED

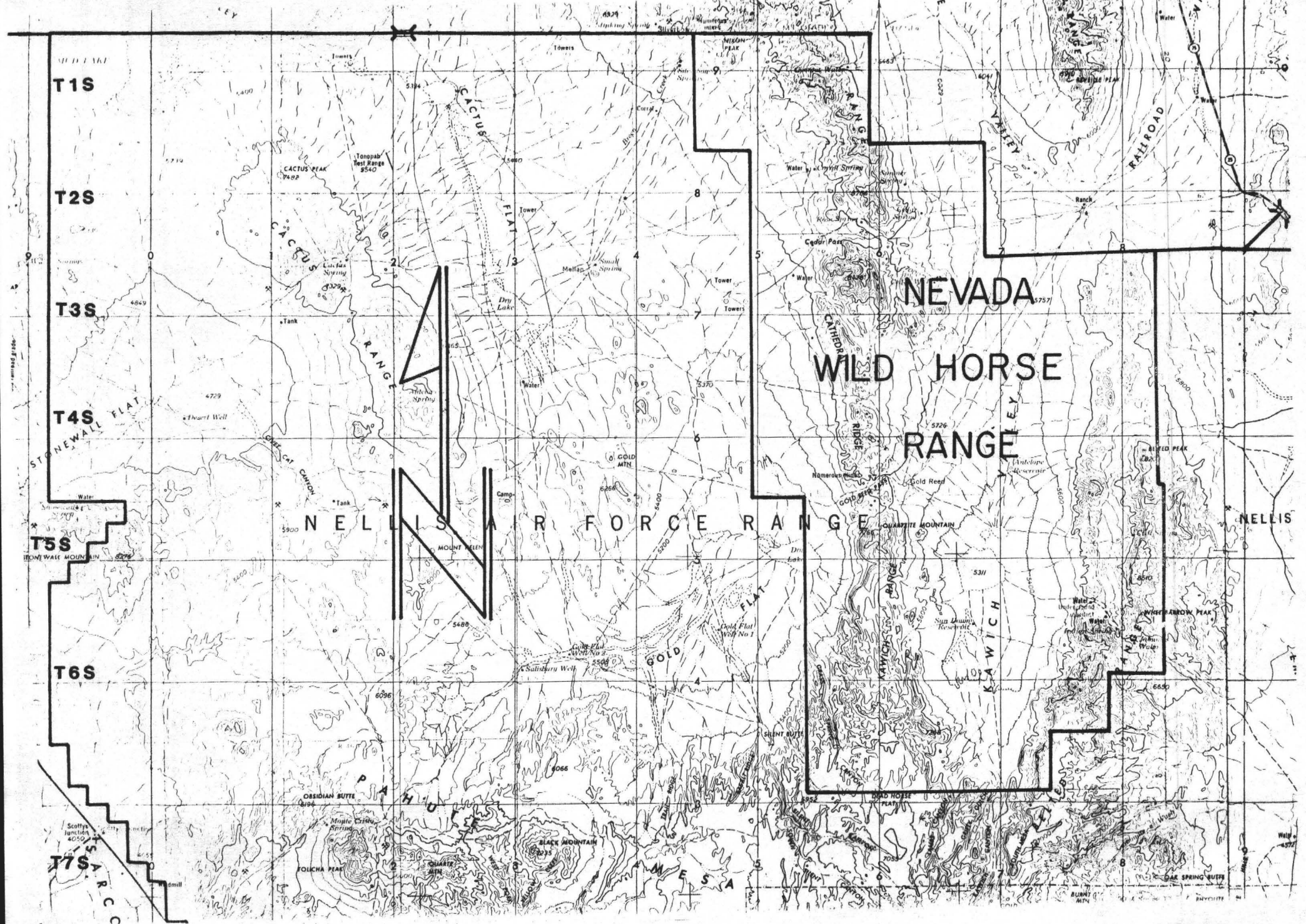
Logan W. Beaman  
Commander, Nellis Air Force Base

DATE 18 JUN 1965

APPROVED

[Signature]  
Assistant State Director  
Bureau of Land Management

DATE 1965



NEVADA  
WILD HORSE  
RANGE

NELLIS ARMY FORCE RANGE

R45E

R46E

R47E

R48E

R49E

R50E

R51E

R52E

R53E

12-27-62

*Cub-  
This is a  
copy of a BEM  
news release, of which  
I have the original  
which states refuge  
size of 435,000 acres.  
Nellis*

"No one who conceives him as only a potential servant to man can apprehend the mustang. The true conceiver must be a true lover of freedom--one who yearns to extend freedom to all mankind. Halted in animated expectancy or running in abandoned freedom, the mustang was the most beautiful, the most spirited and the most inspiring creature to print foot on the grasses of America"

--J. Frank Dobie

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OFFICE OF THE SECRETARY

Lee - Interior 3609

For Release DECEMBER 27, 1962

INTERIOR SETS UP 435,000-ACRE HAVEN FOR WILD HORSES

The "wild" horse--one of the most historically colorful animals of the West--has been given a 435,000-acre haven in southern Nevada, Secretary of the Interior Stewart L. Udall announced today. The refuge was established in answer to pleas from thousands of admirers of the free-ranging animals, some of whom are thought to be remote descendents of the early Spanish mustangs.

The first publicly owned refuge established for management and protection of wild horses and burros is located in the northeast corner of the sprawling practice range of Nellis Air Force Base northwest of Las Vegas. Supervision of the horse range has been assigned to the Department's Bureau of Land Management.

Cooperative arrangements for the range have been worked out between the commander of the Air Force base, the Nevada State Director of the Bureau of Land Management, and the Nevada Game and Fish Commission. Secretary Udall stressed that this is not a new withdrawal of public lands.

"Preserving a typical herd of feral horses in one of the Nation's most isolated areas may prove difficult, but we will make the effort to assure those of us who admire the wild horse that there will always be some of these animals," Secretary Udall said. "To many people, the wild horse is a symbol of an inspiring era in the West."

The animals ranging on the Nevada area are considered mixtures of the Spanish mustangs, Indian ponies, and domestic horses that have strayed or were abandoned by their owners. Only one generation is needed to change a domestic bred horse to a wild one.

He explained that there were once hundreds of thousands of wild horses ranging over public lands in the West. Epidemics, starvation, and roundups drastically reduced their numbers so that the Bureau of Land Management now estimates that there are less than 15,000 animals in small, scattered herds.

According to one authority, the wild horse of today could be considered a "feral exotic"--an introduced animal that has gone wild. Although the degree of relationship between the present wild horses and the early Spanish mustangs varies, today's horses probably bear little resemblance to the animals which strayed from Spanish expeditions, missions, and settlements in the 16th and 17th centuries.

While the rugged public lands in this Nevada region--one of the largest roadless areas in the West--may support only a few hundred wild horses, status as a permanent refuge is the first step to assure that at least one wild herd will be preserved, Secretary Udall added.

Indians tamed some of the animals and used them to reign over the West until the coming of civilization--railroads, ranchers, and homesteaders spelled the end of their empire.

#### Civilization Meant End of Horse Empire

Westward moving civilization meant an end to the way of life of many Indians and their ponies, as domestic livestock and fences made their appearance. By the end of World War I, when many domestic horses were simply abandoned on the range, the strain of Spanish mustangs remained then only as a trace in the bloodlines of wild horses.

Competition for forage on the arid lands of the West heralded the decline of many herds of wild horses. Stockmen took measures to restrict the use of grass to domestic animals.

Roundups of wild horses first began when Indians coveted the fast ponies for saddle animals, and reached a peak when commercial operators entered the picture a few years ago for far different reasons.

Using methods that were not always humane, Secretary Udall explained, roundups, sent thousands of the animals to pet food canneries. As a result of some of these practices, a Federal law was passed in 1959 preventing the use of airplanes or motor vehicles in roundups on the public lands. Privately owned lands are under jurisdiction of the States in this respect, Secretary Udall explained.

#### Not a Showplace for Wild Horses

The new wild horse range in Nevada will not be a showplace for the animals, Secretary Udall said. Scattered in remote areas of the huge range, many of them have never been seen by man--except at a distance--and will probably live out their lives without the touch of a human being.

✓  
One of the biggest problems faced by the Department in its search for a suitable refuge is competition between wild horses and other stock. Since the Air Force range is already a military withdrawal where domestic animals are not permitted, wild horses and wild game have shared this area in recent years.

Part of the agreement between BLM and the Air Force assures access for range conservationists during weekend periods when practice firing missions are halted.

With the help of the wildlife specialists from the Nevada Game and Fish Commission, range specialists will inventory available forage for use by wild horses and native wildlife.

#### Only Wild Horse Refuge

The isolated Nevada tract is the only Federal area set aside for wild horses. A herd which roams Chincoteague Island in Virginia--probably descended from ship-wrecked Arabian horses--is not in an area specifically reserved for it. Ponies at Chincoteague, home of the famous "Misty," of books and motion pictures, are owned by the local volunteer fire department but range over parts of the Chincoteague National Wildlife Refuge.

Elsewhere in the West, uncontrolled wild horses will continue to remain a source of local and regional controversy. In large numbers, they can sharply reduce the amount of grass available for domestic livestock and for grazing species of wildlife such as antelope. Damage by sharp hooves of the horses is especially high during early spring when soil is still moist from winter snows. During these periods domestic livestock is usually kept off the range, but wild horses continue to graze.

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6-13-62

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### A. Cooperative Management Program

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run in this area. This approximate number of wild horses will be maintained as long as their use of the range remains in balance with the forage resources available. The horses using this area will be considered as a feral animal and will be managed and protected in a similar manner as wildlife that use the public lands.

2. Program

a. U S. Air Force Activities

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- (1) All regular weekend periods of Air Force inactivity.
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3. Description

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T 3 S, R 51 E, All;  
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T 4 S, R 50 E, All;  
T 4 S, R 51 E All; T 4 S, R 51-1/2 E,  
T 4 S, R 52 E, All;  
T 5 S, R 50 E, E-1/2; T 5 S, R 51 E, All;  
T 5 S, R 52 E, All;  
T 5 S, R 53 E, W-1/2; T 6 S, R 50 E, E-1/2;  
T 6 S, R 51 E, All;  
T 6 S, R 52 E, All; T 6 S, R 53 E, NW-1/4;  
T 7 S, R 50 E, NE-1/4;  
T 7 S, R 51 E, N-1/2; T 7 S, R 52 E, NW-1/4.

*Submitt*

The area as described by longitude and latitude  
is as follows;

Beginning at a longitude of 116°04' and a latitude  
of 37°43' thence west on the same latitude to a  
longitude of 116°13'; thence north on the same  
longitude to a latitude of 37°49'; thence west  
on the same latitude to a longitude of 116°20';  
thence north on the same longitude to a latitude  
of 37°54'; thence west on the same latitude to  
a longitude of 116°30'; thence south on the same  
longitude to a latitude of 37°49'; thence east  
on the same latitude to a longitude of 116°26';  
thence south on the same longitude to a latitude  
of 37°33'; thence east on the same latitude to

a longitude of 116°23'; thence south on the same longitude to a latitude of 37°19'; thence east on the same latitude to a longitude of 116°11'; thence north on the same longitude to a latitude of 37°21'; thence east on the same latitude to a longitude of 116°07'; thence north on the same longitude to a latitude of 37°23'; thence east on the same latitude to a longitude of 116°04'; thence north on the same longitude to the point of beginning.

Approximately 394,500 acres are enclosed within the boundaries described above.

APPROVED

/s/ Lloyd W. Brauer  
Commander, Nellis Air Force Base

DATE 18 June 1965

APPROVED

/s/ J. R. Penny  
Nevada State Director  
Bureau of Land Management

DATE June 2, 1965

*Frank Bingham*

## WILD HORSE MANAGEMENT AREA

Nellis Air Force Base and Bureau of Land Management

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estimated on the basis of counts made by the State Fish and Game Department that more than 200 wild horses now run in this area. This approximate number of wild horses will be maintained as long as their use of the range remains in balance with the forage resources available. The horses using this area will be considered as a feral animal and will be managed and protected in a similar manner as wildlife that use the national land reserve.

2. Program

a. U. S. Air Force Activities

Establish a liaison officer to work with the Bureau of Land Management in scheduling wild horse management activities within the area. After appropriate scheduling with the liaison officer, the Bureau of Land Management shall have access to the area during the following times:

- (1) All regular weekend periods of Air Force inactivity.

(2) For special periods as scheduled for management activities. During such periods of use by the BLM, the Air Force may continue to utilize the lands for its practice operations with the following restrictions: that no bullets, rockets, or missiles will be fired into that part of the range used for wild horse management activities.

b. Bureau of Land Management Activities

The Bureau of Land Management will cooperate with the Air Force and the Nevada State Fish and Game Commission in managing the range and maintaining the proper number of horses to utilize the area. The Bureau will inspect, if necessary, the condition of the horses and their habitat, and will initiate studies that may be necessary to determine the trend in range conditions. By cooperation with Nevada State and County officials, the control of the desired number of horses to use the range will be achieved.

3. Description

That parties of the Nellis Air Force Range to be used by wild and abandoned horses comprises approximately 18 townships, or 435,000 acres.

The area is as follows:

T 3 S, R 51 E, 51½ E, 52 E, 53 E, and approximately the W½ of 54 E.

T 4 S, R 51 E, 51½ E, 52 E, 53 E, and approximately the W½ of 54 E.

T 5 S, R 51 E, 51½ E, 52 E, 53 E, 54 E, and approximately the W¼ of 55 E.

T 6 S, R 51 E, 51½ E, 52 E, 53 E, 54 E, and approximately the W¼ of 55 E.

APPROVED

/s/ Boyd Hubbard, Jr.  
Commander, Nellis Air Force Base

DATE June 13, 1962

APPROVED

/s/ J. R. Penny  
Nevada State Director  
Bureau of Land Management

DATE June 18, 1962