

Mellis

5-14-70
COPY

4112.18
(N-600)

State Director

May 14, 1970

District Manager, N-5

Inventory of Potential Wild Horse Ranges

This is in reference to your subject memo of May 6, 1970 and my telephone conversation with Martin Buzan of May 11, 1970.

I have reviewed potential wild horse ranges in this district with my staff. There are several areas of suitable habitat in the district where ferral horses exist and thrive, other than our existing horse range. These areas however are all within existing grazing allotments or Sec. 15 leases. Grazing rights or leases would have to be extinguished and areas fenced to be set up as horse range. Related areas suitable to development for replacement forage are limited. Clearing and seeding areas may cost about \$40.00 per AUM. Privileges could be purchased for \$10.00 to \$12.00 per AUM.

The Lancaster Allotment under option to the Mustang Association is not fenced, is surrounded by other cattle allotments, is partly a common allotment for another user. Standing lone, it would have many manv lems to overcome to be used as a horse range.

The area that seems to have the most potential and suitability is ou. existing horse range. There is a substantial population of horses in a northern portion of the range and areas adjacent to it. In actuality, the bulk of the horse range is either not used or is lightly used by the horses. The bulk of the horses heavily use the north end of the Kawich range, and the valleys on the east and west sides. This is mostly outside of the horse range and partly outside the bombing range boundaries. Horses would no doubt make much greater use of other portions of the horse and bombing range in the absence of heavy use of trespass livestock and with the availability of improved water. With these two factors changed, this area could support many many more horses.

There would be a distinct advantage in extending the boundaries of the horse range north outside of the bombing range. Besides that fact that horses are prevelent in this area, the public and management would have ready access. This would provide at least a portion of the range and horses for public observation and would provide some additional protection for the horses on the portion within the bombing range.

Our suggestion is that we expand the size of horse range within the bombing range, and include the north end of Kawich range outside of the bombing range, make a unified effort to eliminate trespass cattle from within the bombing range, proceed to set up the management plan for the area including water developments.

This could be the largest horse range and support the largest number of horses in the country. Grazing rights are already extinguished within the range. It is possible that the Battle Mtn. District would have potential development areas for replacement forage for the livestock rights removed from the north end of the Kawich range. We have only briefly discussed this matter with Battle Mtn.

Attached is a map showing suggested enlargement of existing horse range. District personnel recently visiting the horse range counted more than 400 horses within the area shown in orange. They feel they saw only a portion.

DEHess/bad