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REPORT OF INSPECTION OF MUSTANG RANGE

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Dave Walter, Malcolm Hamilton, Art Tower, Jim Brunner

NEVADA STATE OFFICE
RENO, NEVADA

We entered the Mustang Range at about 9:00 a.m. from Silverbow on the road in Section 3, T.1S., R.49E. Four antelope were sighted, two just west of Silverbow and two east of Silverbow.

The flat in Section 10-14, T.1S., R.49E., is 4 Artr-Hija (about 12 acres/AUM). We proceeded to Pole Spring which is four miles from the cross roads in Section 14. The rating deteriorates rapidly, going to 30 acres plus. From the tracks, there are about fifty head of horses watering at Pole Spring. The corridor from the flat to the spring is heavily over used. Pole Spring is back in the trees about one mile. In a small open sagebrush area are two springs about 75 feet apart. They consist of pools about 12 feet across and 8 inches to 12 inches deep in the center. They are currently adequate. (If necessary to develop, the area should be fenced with a pole corral. Dip out and place a spring box in each spring, pipe to a reservoir below them.)

We then returned to the cross roads in Section 14 and drove to Tunnel Spring. The range grasses improves in Section 25 (same township and range) and then becomes a 13 Atco-Chvila (40 acres plus) near the spring.

Tunnel Spring was developed in 1967 by BLM. It consists of an old tunnel, partly closed with railroad ties, piped about 100 feet with one inch plastic pipe to a steel trough 18 feet by 2½ feet. A small flow of water is not visible for measuring. A small overflow pit is available but the trough evidently seldom overflows. This installation is satisfactory.

Out on the Test Range, six to eight miles east of the Mustang Range were 60 to 80 horses or cattle, too far away to be sure.

Southwest of Tunnel Spring were 9+7+10+4+1+2 = 33 head of horses. Four were cattle, one was a lone stud.

Corral Spring is a hole dug into the ground, piped about 750 feet to a steel trough as at Tunnel Spring. The plastic pipe was broken about 5 feet from the trough and the water (1 gpm) is flowing into a large overflow pit. This is barely satisfactory. A spring box should be installed and the pipe repaired and buried with rocks to protect it.

The little spring 1.4 miles southeast of Corral Spring was not examined.

The vegetation changes from 13 type to 4 type about one and one-half miles south of Corral Spring. In general, the 4 type contains 3-5 per cent grass. Carrying capacity is low.

We then proceeded to Cedar Pass to the trough on the old Wild Horse Ranch pipeline. This line was re-laid (one mile of one inch plastic pipe) in 1967. The trough is dry. There is so little grass in the area that it is recommended that this water not be repaired until 1972 fiscal year.

We proceeded east through Cedar Pass. The mountain to the south is sheer rock and pine trees. Possibly some water exists, but no horse feed.

We took the road by "restricted" (on the map) and went south. No road could be found to the first spring marked. The second spring has not been developed but chukkas indicate water is present. There is an old horse trap just north of the first summit, between the two springs. The area has been heavily used by horses in the past, but is not used at present. Possibly this is winter country. Rating is 80-100 Acre/AUM.

We proceeded south to the junction 3.3 miles north of Gold Reed. About 2 miles north of this cross roads the vegetation changes from 4 to 13 type. Carrying capacity doubles immediately. We proceeded north through the 13 type which varies from 5 Acres to 20 Acre/AUM. We went to Cedar Wells. No horses were seen east of Cedar Pass, by the way.

Cedar Wells is a pit from which an ancient steel pipeline goes to a 15'x4' metal trough. There is five feet of water in the pit but the pipeline is dry. It was fixed in 1967. About 200 feet east of the trough is an open 8'x8'x8' pit with sheer sides with about 4' of water in it. This is a hazard. There is little grass in the area and it is weak. The advisability of developing this water is doubtful since cattle from the east would be pulled into the area.

We then proceeded to Cedar Spring. This was an old headquarters, now fallen down. Water can be heard running, probably into the pipeline to Cedar Pipeline Ranch, 8 miles east. The trough below the spring is dry and the trough in the corral is dry. Cattle were seen to the east.

We went to Cedar Pipeline Ranch. The area for two miles around the ranch is mostly halogeton.

We went southeast on the Antelope reservoir road. The vegetation improves, finally becoming pure white sage (4 acre/AUM). There are two new reservoirs north of Antelope Reservoir (see map). We proceeded to the big playa south of Lamb Pond, then across southeast. There is a large wire mesh corral on the east edge of the playa. It contained about 25 very good horses, mares and colts, plus three top riding horses. The mares had manes four inches long.

We proceeded east up a new road over over-grazed country to the Cliff Spring Road. We counted about 122 head of cattle between the Cedar Pipeline Ranch and Lake Pond, all west of the road, around north of the Belled Range. It was dark by this time.

We returned to Las Vegas.

In summary, the present waters appear sufficient. The horses are mostly on the AEC, west of the Mustang Range. We saw none east of Cedar Pass. We saw no cattle west of Cedar Pass. The cattle are on the reservoirs in Kanitch Valley. There is ample feed in the flat for the numbers of horses we saw.

James R. Brunner
James R. Brunner

JRBrunner/mb

cc: ✓ ASD

Fish & Game
Battle Mtn. District
Velma Johnston
Tom Holland
Ed Clutts