



# United States Department of the Interior

## BUREAU OF LAND MANAGEMENT

### CALIENTE RESOURCE AREA

P.O. Box 237

Caliente, Nevada 89008

4710.1  
(NV-055)

February 13, 1990

Mr. Dan Keiserman  
Ms. Suzie Askew  
Commission for the Preservation of Wild Horses  
Stewart Facility  
Capitol Complex  
Carson City, Nevada 89710

Dear Mr. Keiserman and Ms. Askew,

I have provided the following information for your use in response to the letter of February 8, 1990 and phone requests from Cathy Barcomb on your behalf.

1) Jule Durfee has compiled water data for the Nevada Wild Horse Range based upon readily available, current information. We are presently preparing a management evaluation of the NWHR. When completed, it will provide a more complete picture of both forage and water condition and availability. When completed (scheduled for the end of March 1990), a copy will be sent to the Commission.

Mr. Joe Fallini owns the water rights to three springs within the NWHR: George's water, Sumner Spring and Cedar Spring. He holds valid water certificates for those waters. For additional information, I suggest that you contact Mr. Fallini or the Nevada State Water Engineer.

2) We could not readily locate the report that you requested. Bureau files are normally retained for a period of three years at the local office. They are then sent to the Denver Service Center for long term storage.

3) Refer to response #1.

4) A copy of the January 1990 wild horse census is attached. A summary of census data from 1963 to the present is also attached.

5) To the best of my knowledge, water within the NWHR is owned by the US Government or Mr. Joe Fallini as indicated in response #1. I am unaware of any water that is leased. To obtain information on waters within the larger Nellis Range, possible sources of data could be the US Air Force, US Geological Survey and the Nevada State Water Engineer.

6) Refer to response #2.

7) A narrative summary of frequency and trend data for the 1986 studies is provided. To date, we have been unable to locate the documentation data for the 1981 studies. Refer to response #2.

IN REPLY REFER TO:

2/13/90  
This information can be obtained but not fast enough for this meeting. we will be researching it and get it to you A.S.A.P.

8) The rumor of dead horses below Silver Bow Spring originated during the December 1989 gather. I mentioned it to Cathy Barcomb in a telephone conversation when we were scheduling our pending February 16 meeting. Any actual wild horse deaths are unconfirmed. Our investigation is in progress.

I look forward to our meeting on February 16.

Sincerely yours,



Curtis G. Tucker  
Area Manager  
Caliente Resource Area

Enclosures:

Water Summary  
Census map and data  
Frequency/trend summary

NEVADA WILD HORSE RANGE WATER

February 9, 1990

Perennial Sources:

Water Source	Certificate Number	Legal Description	Flow data Certificate	Actual Flow	Comments
Cliff Spring	3258,1949	R.52E., T.5S., Sec. 14, NWNE	2.8 gal/min.		
Cedar Wells*		R.51E., T.3S., Sec. 10 SENW		1 qt/min 12/1989	
Rose Spring*	2374	R.50E. T.2S., Sec. 24, NWNW		2.5 gal/min 12/1989	
Camp Spring	3253, 1949	R.51E., T.3S., Sec. 11, SESW	14 gal/min.		
Horse Spring	3454, 1950	R.51E., T.5S., Sec. 1, NENE	3 gal/min.		
Indian Spring	3261, 1949	R.52E., T.6S., Sec. 11, SWNW	2.8 gal/min.		
Johnnies Water		R.53E., T.6S., Sec. 8, SWNE			Map Only
Silver Bow Spr.	3956, 1953	R.49E., T.1S., Sec. 9, NWNE	13.5 gal/min.	1gal/min 12/1989*	Estimate Flow
Tunnel Spring	2373	R.50E., T.2S., Sec. 4, SESE		1pt/min. 12/1989*	Estimate Flow
Corral Spring	2375	R.50E., T.2S., Sec. 10, SWNW		1pt/min. 12/1989	
Spring		R.50E., T.2S., Sec.14, SENW			

Ephemeral Water:

Antelope Res.	3536, 1950	R.51 1/2E. T.4S., Sec. 29, SWSW	.006 CFS		
Kawich Valley Wash	3297	R.51E., T.5S., Sec 13, NWSW	.03 CFS		
Sundown Res.	3259, 1949	R.51E., T.5S., Sec. 36, NESE	.0063 CFS		
Lamb's Pond	3266	R.51E., T.5S., Sec. 24, NENE	.0063 CFS		

TABLE 2  
WILD HORSE AND BURRO INVENTORY

DATE	LOCATION	CENSUS/TYPE	HORSES	BURROS
1963	Nevada Wild Horse Range	(Estimate)	<u>200</u>	0
		Total	200	
November, 1973	NWHR	Ground	800	0
		Total	800	
March, 1976	Kawich Valley Gold Flat & Cactus Flat	Aerial	114	0
		Total	<u>950</u> 1,064	0
May, 1977	Overall	Aerial	<u>1,300</u>	0
		Total	1,300	
April, 1980	Stonewall Goldfield Cactus Flat & Kawich Valley & Belted Range	Aerial	341	33
		Aerial	225	36
		Aerial	<u>2,556</u>	<u>0</u>
		Total	3,122	69
June, 1982	Stonewall Mountain Goldfield/Mud Lake Cactus Flat and Cactus Range Kawich Valley & Range	Aerial	574	113
		Aerial	314	82
		Aerial	2,756	0
		Aerial	<u>401</u>	<u>0</u>
		Total	4,405	195
August, 1983	Stonewall Mountain Goldfield/Mud Lake Cactus Flat and Goldflat (Areas A/C Incomplete) Kawich Range/Valley	Aerial	604	49
		Aerial	144	32
		Aerial	3,138	0
			283	0
		Aerial	<u>691</u>	<u>0</u>
		Total	4,860	81
March, 1984	Stonewall (Top of Mountain not inventoried) Goldfield/Mud Lake Cactus/Gold Flat (Area A not inventoried) Kawich	Aerial	543	58
		Aerial	284	60
		Aerial	3,363	0
		Aerial	<u>700</u>	<u>0</u>
		Total	4,890	118

Aerial Censuses invariably undercount total number of wild horses per given area. There has been no correction factor developed for this area.

Thus, total count data secured on the Nellis Range Complex is presumably below the actual population size. In addition, due to time allotted and security restrictions total use areas are not always flown resulting in less consistent data.

## NELLIS CENSUS cont.

Date	Location	Type	# Horses
1985	Stonewall	aerial	403
May	Goldfield/Mud Lake		90
	Cactus/Gold Flat		4432
	Kawich		717
	Total		5642
1986	Stonewall	aerial	24
Sept.	Goldfield/Mud Lake		33
	Cactus/Gold Flat		3140
	Kawich		981
	Total (post gather)		4178
1989	Kawich	aerial	1672
July	Cactus/Gold Flat		4365
	Goldfield/Mud Lake (includes Stonewall)		218
	Total		6255
1990	Kawich	aerial	1093
Jan.	Cactus/Gold Flat		1533
	Goldfield/Mud Lake (includes Stonewall)		649
	Total		3275

### SECTION III

#### NARRATIVE SUMMARY

##### I. Frequency / Trend Data Summary:

Frequency studies were initiated on the Nellis Range Complex in 1986. Normally, frequency studies are read every five years. To date, insufficient time has elapsed to make a second reading.

Apparent trend ratings were conducted in 1986 and 1989. Six sites were read and the results tabulated in Table 1. In 1986 five of the six key areas showed a downward trend. In 1989 all six key areas showed a downward trend. Apparent trend is based on evidence of the vegetative component moving toward a lower seral stage and accelerated soil movement.

Table 1. Results of apparent trend rating.

Key area	APPARENT TREND	
	1986 Rating	1989 Rating
A	down	down
B	down	down
C	down	down
D	down	down
E	static	down
F	down	down

##### II. Ecological Status:

There has been no ecological status inventory of the NRC or Nevada Wild Horse Range.

# COMPUTATION SHEET

BY \_\_\_\_\_ DATE \_\_\_\_\_ PROJECT \_\_\_\_\_ SHEET NO. \_\_\_\_\_ OF \_\_\_\_\_  
 CHKD. BY \_\_\_\_\_ DATE \_\_\_\_\_ FEATURE \_\_\_\_\_ ACTIVITY \_\_\_\_\_  
 OFFICE \_\_\_\_\_ DETAIL \_\_\_\_\_

*% Utilization*

70

60

50

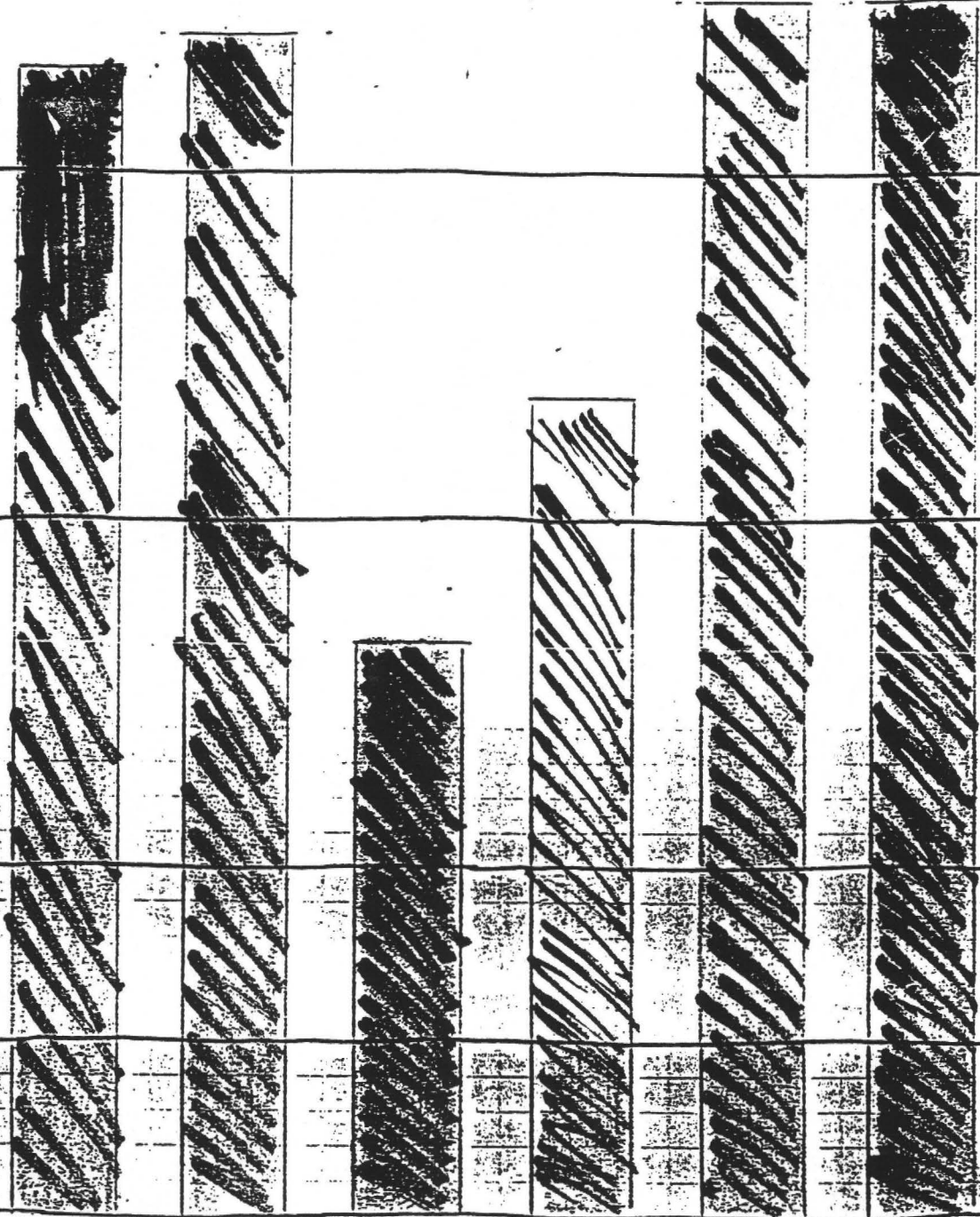
40

30

20

10

0



*Heavy  
61-80%*

*Moderate  
41-60%*

*Light  
21-40%*

*Slight  
11-20%*

*No Use  
0-10%*

ORHY Indian R. across 3yr Ave. '51  
 ORHY Indian R. across 3yr Ave. '51  
 HIJA Gallata Grass '51  
 HIJA 3yr Ave '51-54  
 CELA Winterfat '51  
 CELA 3yr Ave '51-54

1966

Semi-regular Frequency Table  
 calculated by Peter Campbell

Key Area: A

Species	% frequency
HIJA *	26
ERPU	4
SIHY *	35
DRHY *	13
BRTE	4
SPCR	1
STPA	2
SPHA	16
AEE	34
ERIOG	2
ASTRA	3
ATCO	16
CHIV	64
CELA *	5
ARSP	27
EPNE	0.5

Key Area B

Species	% frequency
HIJA *	5
SIHY *	28
DRHY *	11
ERPU	2
BRTE	10
SPCR	6
AAEF	65
SPHA	31
ERIOG	14
ATCO	36
CHIV	40
ARSP	34
CELA *	2

\* Denotes Key Species

Note: Percentages are based on 200 hits



1986

Key Area C

Species	% Frequency
HIJA *	24
ORHY *	31
SPCR	32
BRTE	30
ARPU	11
AFFF	82
SPHFE	53
ASRA	0.5
ATCO	12
ARSP	19
CELA *	16

Key Area D

Species	% Frequency
HIJA *	40
ORHY *	6
SPCR	43
SEHY	19
BRTE	6
ARLU	1
EELU	24
AFFF	48
SPHFE	37
ATCO	26
CHVI	1
ARSP *	26
CELA *	0.5

Frequency 1986

Key Area E

Species	% frequency
HLA *	54
ORHY *	19
SIHY	1
BRTE	2
AAFF	89
SPAE	5
ASTA	0.5
Tumbleweed	15
TCO	7
ARSP	11
CELA *	7

Key Area F

Species	% frequency
SPCR *	52
SIHY *	6
ORHY *	6
BRTE	49
AAFF	83
SPAE	47
OPITE	0.5
Tumbleweed	0.5
ATOD	11
ARSP	60
CELA *	72