WILD HORSE INVENTORY SUMMARY

March 7 - April 4, 1975

	Male	Female	and/or unclassified 2 yrs. adults	Ylng	Young	Sub	Total
CHERRY CREEK RESOURCE AREA							
Steptoe Planning Unit	24	21	7	10	2	64	
Butte Planning Unit	46	73	20	47	2	188	
Newark Planning Unit	125	196	67	123	8	519	
Counted by Elko	2	5	8	0	2	17	
Humboldt National Forest	3	7	0	6	0	16	
	200	302	102	186	14	804	
Hooper's Allotment (Legal Involvement)			(261)1/			(261)	
Total							1065
CURRANT RESOURCE AREA2/							
Preston-Lund Planning Unit			7	1		8	
Duckwater Planning Unit							
Ely District							
F.S.-BLM (25%-75% shared use)	20	11	96	7	7	141	
BLM	5	7	186	22	3	223	
Battle Mountain District	1	1	80	7	5	94	
	26	19	396	37	15	466	
Archie Allison's (claimed under W.H.A.)			(27)		(2)	(29)	
Total							495
HY SPRING RESOURCE AREA							
Lake Valley Planning Unit	17	10	7	3	0	37	
Wilson Creek Planning Unit							
Ely District	47	62	34	36	0	179	
Las Vegas District	19	10	14	5	1	49	
Cedar City District	10	3	6	1	2	22	
	93	85	61	45	3	287	
White River Planning Unit							
Ely District			135	17	6	158	
Las Vegas District			12	2	1	15	
			147	19	7	173	
Total							460
MORIAH RESOURCE AREA							
Ely District	65	107	41	61	1	275	
Elko District	24	50	20	33	0	127	
	89	157	61 3/	94	1	402	
Total							402
Total District Wide Count							2422
Less Hooper's						261	
Less Archie Allison's						29	
							290
Actual (Legal) Wild Horse Numbers Inventoried							2132

Assuming the entire inventory to be a random sample, each observation was plotted by a hands original location and counted according to the respective boundary lines. All own duplicate observations have been eliminated.

1/ Only total numbers of animals was recorded.

2/ Horse & Cattle Camp P.U. was not inventoried completely, but no horses were counted there.

3/ Figure includes no unclassified adults.

WILD HORSE INVENTORIES COMPARISONS

ELY DISTRICT

	Adults	Ylngs	Young	Sub	Total
Duckwater Planning Unit					
Helicopter Inventories, March 15-20, 1975					
Ely District					
F.S. - BLM count	127	7	7	141	
BLM	200	22	3	225	
Totals	327	29	10	366	366
Battle Mountain District					
Eureka R. A.	45	5	2	52	
Tonopah R. A.	37	2	3	42	
Totals	82	7	5	94	94
Total Inventoried	409	36	75	460	460
January 29 - February 3, 1973*					
Ely District					
F.S. - BLM count	67	8	0	75	
BLM	240	44	0	284	
Totals	307	52	0	359	359
Battle Mountain District					
Eureka R. A.	39	2	0	41	
Tonopah R.A.	56	9	0	65	
	95	11	0	106	106
Total Inventoried	402	63	0	465	465

*For comparison purposes, the young and yearlings have been moved to the next oldest age class because of the time of the year the 1973 inventory was made.

Lake Valley-Wilson Creek Planning Unit					
February, 1973 - Fixed Wing					
Eastern Portion - East of U.S. 93					
In Ely District	76	21	0	97	
In Cedar City District	18	4	0	22	
In Las Vegas District	39	2	2	43	
Total	133	27	2	162	162
Western Portion - West of U.S. 93					
In Ely District	70	14	0	84	
In Las Vegas District	13	2	0	15	
Total	83	16	0	99	99
					261
May 13-22, 1974 - Helicopter					
Eastern Portion					
In Ely District	101	0	17	118	
In Cedar City District	5	0	0	5	
In Las Vegas District	8	2	2	12	
Totals	114	2	19	135	135

WILD HORSE INVENTORIES COMPARISONS (con't)

	Adults	Ylngs	Young	Sub	Total
Western Portion					
In Ely District	105	9	21	135	
In Las Vegas District	6	1	1	8	
Totals	111	10	22	143	143
					278
March 15-20, 1975 - Helicopter					
Eastern Portion					
In Ely District	109	38	1	148	
In Cedar City District	19	1	2	22	
In Las Vegas District	23	5	0	28	
Totals	151	44	3	198	198
Western Portion					
In Ely District	65	3	0	68	
In Las Vegas District	20	0	1	21	
Totals	85	3	1	89	89
					287

WILD HORSE INVENTORY

March 7 - April 4, 1975

	Male	Female	and/or unclassified adults 2 yrs.	Ylng	Young	Sub	Total
Total Number of (Legal) Wild Horses Counted Inside Ely District Boundary (including U.S.F.S.)							
CHERRY CREEK RESOURCE AREA							
All Planning Units	200	302	102	186	14	804	
CURRANT RESOURCE AREA							
Duckwater, Preston-Lund P.U.	25	18	289	30	10	372	
PONY SPRINGS RESOURCE AREA							
Lake Valley-Wilson Creek P.U.	64	72	41	39	0	216	
White River P.U.	0	0	135	17	6	158	
MORIAH RESOURCE AREA	65	107	41	61	1	275	
Total Number of Legal Wild Horses that were Counted Strictly within Ely District Boundary							1825
Total Number of Horses Counted Outside Ely District Boundary							
CURRANT RESOURCE AREA							
Battle Mountain District	1	1	80	7	5	94	
PONY SPRINGS RESOURCE AREA							
Las Vegas District	19	10	26	7	2	64	
Cedar City District	10	3	6	1	2	22	
MORIAH RESOURCE AREA							
Elko District	24	50	20	33	0	127	
Total Number of Horses Counted Outside Ely District Boundary, but the majority of these probably use the Ely District at one time or another.							307

POPULATION RATIO COMPARISONS

FROM MARCH 1975

WILD HORSE INVENTORY

	Total No. of Horses Used in Calculations	Horses/Band	Studs/Mares	Ylngs/100 Adults	Ylngs/100 Mares	Young/100 Adults	Young/100 Mares	2 yr olds/100 Adults	2 yr olds/100 Mares
Cherry Creek Resource Area									
Steptoe Planning Unit	64	6.4	53/47	22.2	48	4.4	9.5	15.6	33.3
Butte Planning Unit	188	6.3	39/61	39.5	64.4	1.7	2.7	16.8	27.4
Newark Planning Unit (ex. Elko)	535	6.1	39/61	39.0	63.5	2.4	3.9	20.2	33.0
As a Whole	787	6.15	40/60	37.6	62.6	2.42	4.04	19.0	31.6

Age Classes (%)

Male	Female	2 yr.	Ylng	Young
25.2	37.7	12.0	23.6	1.5

Currant Resource Area					
Duckwater Planning Unit					
F.S. - BLM	141	5.2	5.6	5.6	
BLM (including B.M. Dist)	317	5.0	10.4	1.9	
Entire P.U. as a Whole	458	5.09	8.9	3.6	

Age Classes (%)

Adults + 2 yr olds	Ylngs	Young
88.9	7.9	3.2

Pony Springs Resource Area					
Lake Valley-Wilson Creek P.U.	287	4.6			
White River Planning Unit	173	5.4	12.9	4.8	

Age Classes (%)

Adults + 2 yr olds*	Ylngs	Young
83.3	15.7	1.0

*the unclassified adults throws the yearling & young ratios off some.

Moriah Resource Area									
Ely District	275	5.4	38/62	35.5	57.0	0.58	0.94	23.8	38.3
Elko District	127	6.4	32/68	44.6	66.0	0	0	27.0	40.0

Age Classes (%)

Male	Female	2 yr.	Ylng	Young
22.1	39.1	15.2	23.4	0.2

Blank spaces occur in the data where it is not comparable, due to the lack of classification in some parts of the inventory. All the possible meaningful population ratios obtainable from the data have been calculated.

INTERPRETATION OF POPULATION RATIOS

Results:

1. The difference between the number of horses/band may not be too significant by itself.

2. The ratio or relative percentages of studs to mares may be a significant factor in a herd's reproductive potential.

3. As the precentage of studs drops below 50% in the adult population it may have a higher reproductive potential and vice versa. This is most likely due to the biological nature of the animals: as the stud population decreases there is less antagonism between animals and less competition for mares, thus a higher breeding and fertility rate and foal crop. This is very similar to the dynamics found in deer populations.

4. The figures on the young (new born) animals are insignificant because of the time of the year the inventory was done, but they are neglible in changing the relative percentages of the other age classes so were included in the calculations.

5. The relative percentages of the age classes are closely related between Cherry Creeek and Moriah.

6. The accuracy of the classifications may in some cases be questionable so they should be checked out on the ground, if possible.

7. Sex classifications of the adult animals may be the least accurate, but the age classes and population ratios seem to bear the accuracy of the adult sexing out, if what was stated in numbers 1, 2 and 3 above holds true. In classifying ages it is easiest to determine young, yearlings and two year olds, in that order. After two years, and even between yearlings and two year olds in some cases, the size differences are a less distinguishable characteristic of age, due to variation in foaling dates, nutrition, genetics, etc. The two year olds plus may be considered aduits for nearly all practical purposes (except age structure) since in domestic horses mares reach puberty at 1½ years, so this is probably the case with wild horses.

8. This information can provide extremely valuable correlations that are needed before any population regulation should be implemented. Changing or adjusting population ratios can affect such things as reproductivity and mortality rates.

9. Information on wild horse populations such as the foregoing should be sought after for inclusion into the U.R.A. so that as much knowledge as possible is available before making multiple use management decisions that will affect the present status of a wild population.