



Desatoya Herd Management Area Lander and Churchill Counties, Nevada

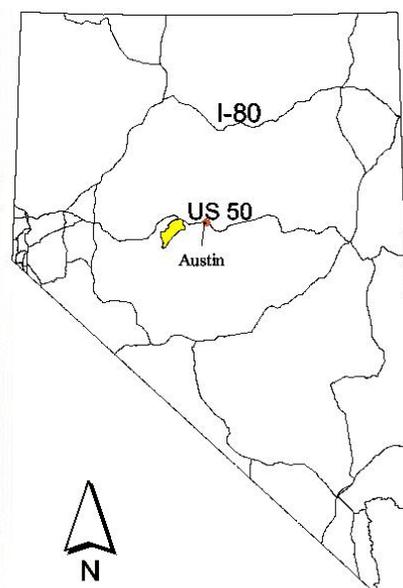
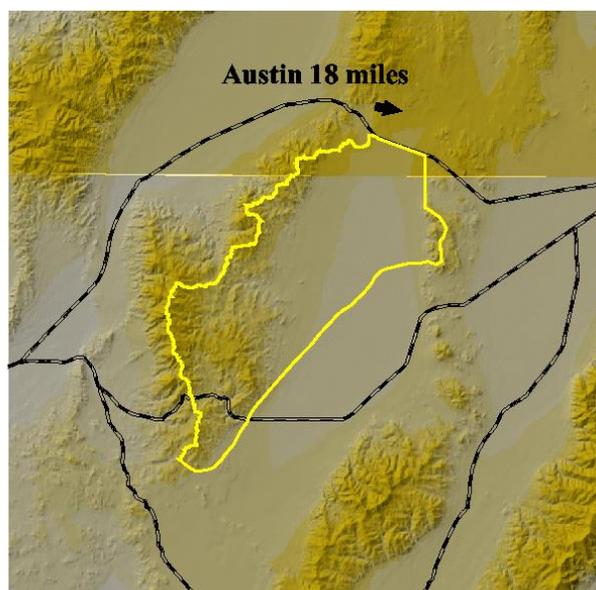


Location/Habitat

The Desatoya Herd Management Area (HMA) is located approximately 18 miles west of Austin, Nevada, in Lander and Churchill counties. The area consists of 139,283 acres. The terrain across most of the former Shoshone-Eureka planning area managed by the Battle Mountain Field Office is typical of the Great Basin region with steep north and south trending mountain ranges separated by large sweeping valley bottoms. The Desatoya HMA consists of the Desatoya Mountain Range and varies in elevation from 9,900 feet at Desatoya Peak to 6,100 feet in Smith Creek Valley to the southeast and Edwards Creek Valley to the northwest. Temperatures range in excess of 100 degrees in the summer to less than 20 degrees below zero in the winter. Precipitation is in short supply with an annual total of only 5 to 16 inches.

The Battle Mountain Field Office portion of the HMA spans 18 miles wide and 24 miles long. The entire HMA crosses both the Lander/Churchill County line, and the administrative boundary between land administered by the Battle Mountain and the Carson City field offices. The HMA is currently administrated by the Carson City Field Office.

In addition to the wild horses, the HMA is often utilized by domestic cattle and domestic sheep. Wildlife species occurring in the areas include mule deer, sage grouse, chukar, coyotes, mountain lions, bobcats, pronghorn antelope and numerous other small mammals, birds, and reptiles.



Vegetation

Vegetation types are distributed according to topography and elevation and the associated precipitation. Within the highest elevations, and subsequently the greatest precipitation, the vegetation consists primarily of pinyon-pine and juniper trees, mountain-mahogany and low sagebrush. The lower and drier elevations consist of saltbush, greasewood, sagebrush and a variety of annual and perennial grasses and wildflowers. In some areas it may take 25 acres to support one horse for one month.

Herd Description

The appropriate management level (AML) for this HMA on the Battle Mountain portion is 82 animals. The average band size in this HMA is 6 horses.