



## Gold Mountain Herd Management Area Nye and Esmeralda Counties, Nevada



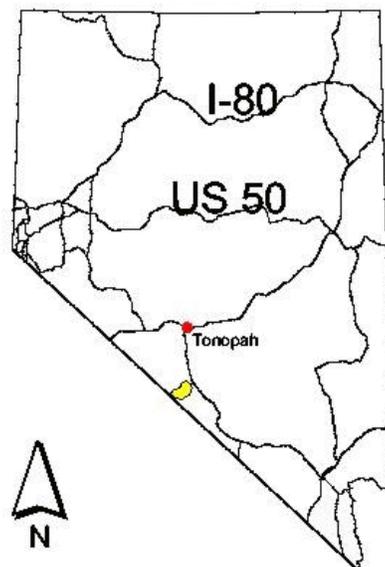
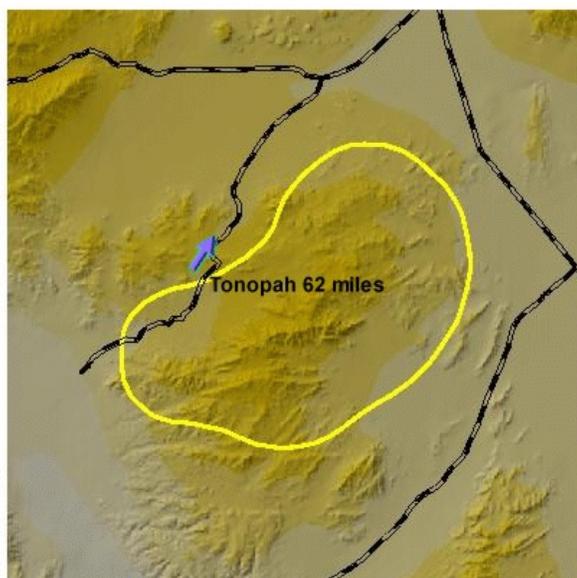
### Location/Habitat

The Gold Mountain Herd Management Area (HMA) is located west of Scotty's Junction (U.S. Highway 95) in Nye and Esmeralda counties. The area consists of approximately 92,050 acres and encompasses an area 17 miles wide and 13 miles long, varying in elevation from 7,565 feet on Mt. Tokop, to a low of 4,040 feet in Oriental Wash. This HMA is also very dry in climate with 3 inches of annual precipitation falling in the valley bottoms. The mountain tops may receive up to 12 inches.

This HMA provides suitable habitat for wild burros, but not for wild horses as verified by several emergency gathers in recent years.

### Vegetation

The salt desert shrub vegetation type dominates the broad valleys on alluvial fans and the foothills of the lower elevation areas. The hot desert vegetation is limited to the southern portion of the area and is located in valleys and low hills. The sagebrush vegetation type occurs in mountains and hills, while the pinyon-juniper woodland vegetation type is present in mountainous areas. Important species include Indian ricegrass, galleta grass, alkali sacaton, bottlebrush, squirreltail and winterfat (white sage).



**Herd Description**

As a result of extreme drought conditions in the 1990s, several emergency gathers within and around this HMA were conducted.

There are no records of previous BLM sanctioned gathers prior to the emergency gather of 1996.