



## Spruce-Pequop Herd Management Area Elko County, Nevada

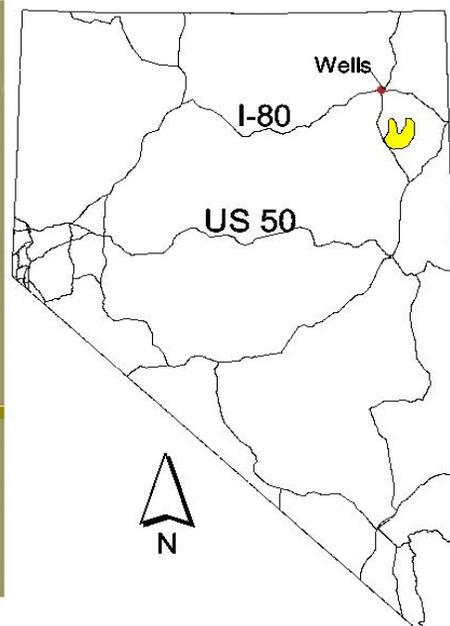
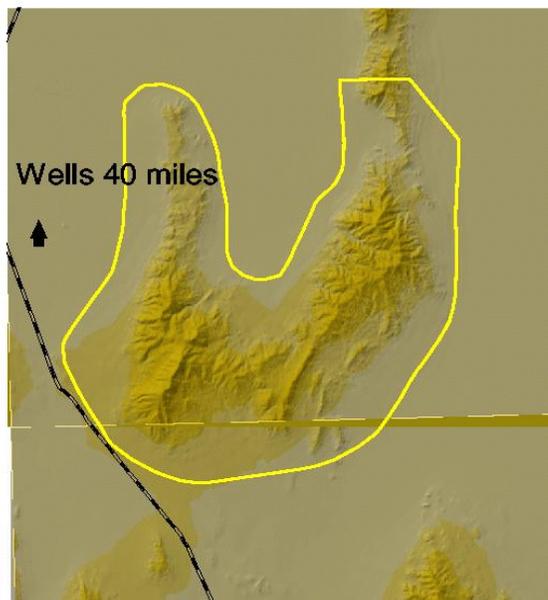


### Habitat/ Location

The Spruce-Pequop Herd Management Area (HMA) is located approximately 40 miles south of Wells, Nevada. The area is 138,000 acres in size and is 19 miles wide at its widest point and 25 miles long. The highest point is Spruce Mountain at 10,262 feet in elevation and the lowest points are found in the valley bottoms at about 5,000 feet. Average precipitation is 7 inches on the valley bottoms and from 14 to 20 inches on the mountain slopes. Most of the rainfall occurs during the winter months when the plants are dormant. This creates the cold temperate desert of which Spruce-Pequop is a part. Temperatures can be extreme. They range from a high of 100 degrees Fahrenheit in the summer months to a low of 15 degrees below zero in the winter.

### Vegetation

The vegetation consists of mainly sagebrush with an understory of grasses on the valley bottoms. The upland vegetation contains a variety of shrubs such as snowberry, serviceberry, bitterbrush and mountain big sage. At the highest elevations, trees such as white fir, limber pine and bristlecone can be found. Wild horses must share their habitat with domestic livestock and wildlife species such as mule deer, elk, and pronghorn antelope.



### **Herd Description**

The predominate colors among the Spruce-Pequop horses are sorrel, bay, buckskin, black, brown, dun, chestnut, palomino, roan, grulla and gray.

The horses in the HMA probably originated from ranch stock in the area. In the early 1970's the Lear Ranch claimed many horses (during the claiming period which occurred from 1974 to 1978). They appeared to have had marginal success in gathering their horses. The pictures taken at that time show mainly sorrel and bay Quarter horses.