



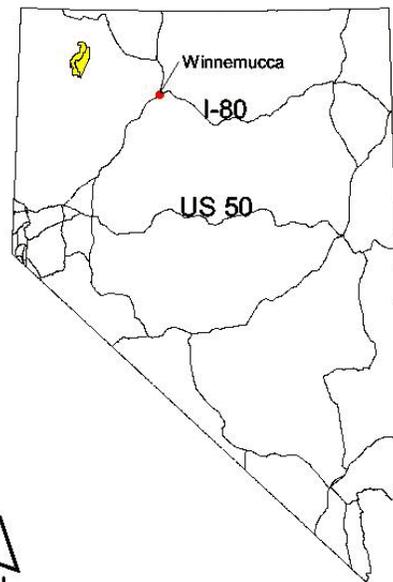
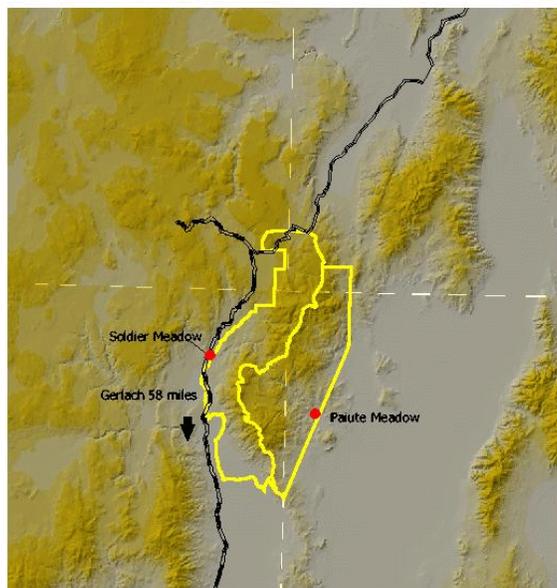
Black Rock Range East and West Herd Management Areas Humboldt County, Nevada



Location/Habitat

The Black Rock Range East and West Herd Management Areas (HMAs) are located in western Humboldt County approximately 70 air miles northwest of Winnemucca, Nevada, and 40 air miles southwest of Denio, Nevada. The terrain consists of a steep north-south trending mountain range made up of volcanic materials with broad sloping ridge tops in the north. Elevations within the HMAs range from 4,400 feet along the Black Rock Desert to 8,687 feet at Big Mountain. Prominent landmarks/features found within or near the HMAs include the Black Rock Desert, Bartlett Peak, and Big Mountain (Pahute Peak); and the Coleman, Slumgullion, Bartlett, Battle, and Paiute creeks. Climate is characterized by warm dry days, cool nights and low yearly precipitation that ranges from 6 to 8 inches at lower elevations to approximately 14 inches at higher elevations.

The area is utilized by domestic livestock and numerous wildlife species during a portion of the year. Wildlife species typically found in the area include mule deer, pronghorn antelope, California bighorn sheep, rodents, lagomorphs, rabbits, hares and pikas. Other important game species found within the HMAs are brook trout, quail, chukar partridge, and sage grouse. The Lahontan cutthroat trout, a threatened species, occurs in both HMAs, and the Desert dace occurs



in the Black Rock Range West HMA. The North Fork of Battle Creek is being considered as a potential recovery stream for the Lahontan cutthroat trout. Pahute Peak and North Black Rock Range Wilderness Areas (WAs) are partially located within these HMAs. The Black Rock Range West HMA and approximately one-half of the Black Rock Range East HMA are located within the Black Rock Desert/High Rock Canyon Emigrant Trails National Conservation Area.

Vegetation

Vegetation varies from salt desert shrub communities along the Black Rock Desert, to low and big sagebrush/grass communities with intermingled mountain browse at upper elevations.

Typical species in the salt desert shrub community include shadscale, bud sage, Bailey greasewood and black greasewood, Indian ricegrass, and squirreltail. Species in the low sagebrush community include low sage, needlegrass, squirreltail and Sandberg bluegrass.

Species typical of the sagebrush/grass and mountain browse communities include mountain big sagebrush, bitterbrush, mountain-mahogany, aspen, snowberry, rabbitbrush, horsebrush, needlegrass, basin wild-rye, squirreltail, Indian paintbrush, arrowleaf balsamroot, and phlox.

Range grasses are the primary forage source for wild horses.

Herd Description

The Appropriate Management Level (AML) for wild horses in these HMAs is managed in a range from 112 to 186 head. Periodic removals are conducted to maintain the population within the management level. Horses are found throughout the area and move back and forth between the HMAs. The horses are descendants of ranch horses released or escaped into the area and look much like domestic horses. The majority exhibit a bay, brown or sorrel color pattern; however, there are also palominos, buckskins, roans, grays, blacks and whites. There is a small band of Baskir Curly horses around Pinto Mountain, just east of the Black Rock Range East HMA.