



Fox & Lake Range Herd Management Area Washoe County, Nevada

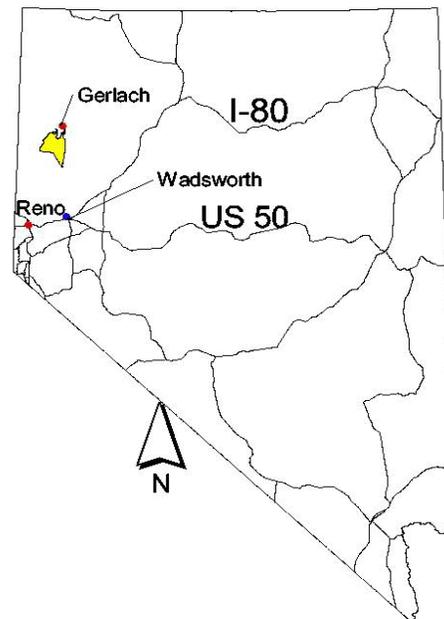
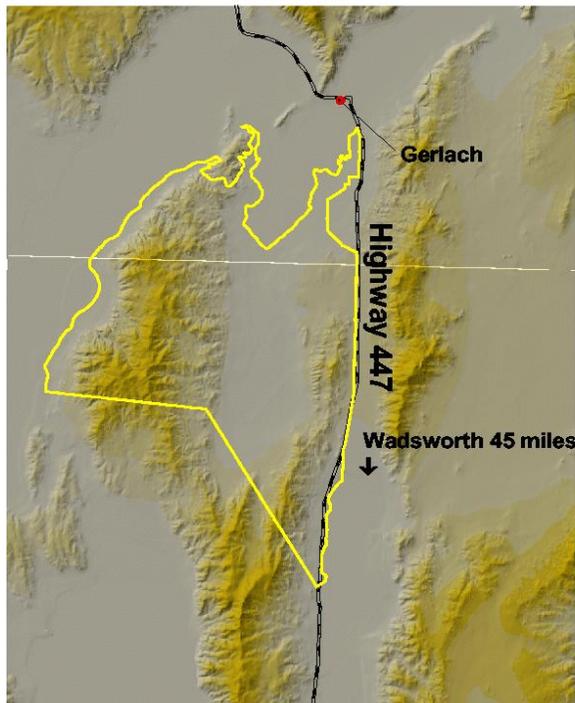


Location/Habitat

The Fox and Lake Range Herd Management Area (HMA) is located in central Washoe County, approximately 60 miles north of Reno, Nevada. The Pyramid Lake Indian Reservation is south of the HMA. The HMA contains approximately 177,263 acres of unfenced public and private lands. The terrain in the area consists of north-south trending mountains separated by broad valleys. Elevations within the HMA range from 3,897 feet along the Smoke Creek Desert to 7,608 at Pah Rum Peak. Climate is characterized by warm dry days, cool nights and low yearly precipitation that ranges from 4 to 6 inches at lower elevations to approximately 12 inches at higher elevations. The area is also utilized by domestic livestock and numerous wildlife species. Typical wildlife species found in the area include mule deer, pronghorn antelope, chukar partridge, coyotes, and various rodents. The Fox Range Wilderness Study Area is contained within the HMA.

Vegetation

Vegetation varies from salt desert shrub communities at lower elevations to big sagebrush/grass communities at upper elevations. Typical species in the salt desert shrub community include shadscale, bud sage, winterfat, black greasewood, Indian ricegrass, squirreltail and Sandberg bluegrass.



Species typical of the sagebrush/grass communities include low sage, Wyoming sagebrush, mountain big sagebrush, bitterbrush, rabbitbrush, Utah juniper, needlegrasses, basin wild-rye, squirreltail, Indian paintbrush and phlox.

Herd Description

The appropriate management level (AML) for wild horses in the HMA is managed in a range from 153 to 204 head. Periodic removals are conducted to maintain the population within the management range. Horses within the HMA are descendants of ranch horses that either escaped or were released into the area. The majority of horses exhibit a bay, brown or sorrel color pattern.