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## Goldfield Herd Management Area

### Nye and Esmeralda Counties, Nevada

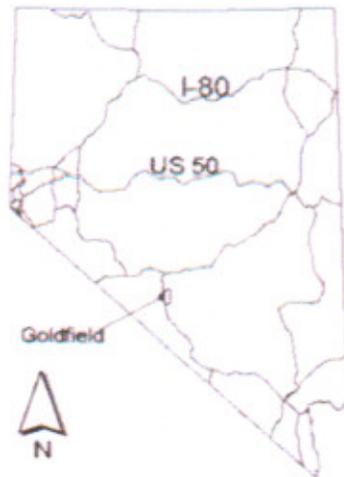
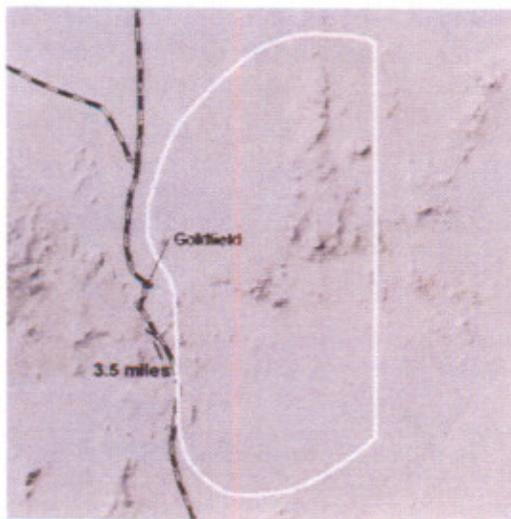


**Location/Habitat**

The Goldfield Herd Management Area (HMA) is located east of the town of Goldfield, Nevada, in Nye and Esmeralda counties. The area consists of approximately 63,966 acres, which spans an area 10 miles wide and 17 miles long. The elevations in this HMA range from 6,590 on Preble Mountain to a low of 5,085 feet at the south end near the Stonewall HMA. The HMA has a very dry climate with only 5 to 8 inches of precipitation falling in the hills.

The gather and total removal of all animals in the late '90s was a result of many years of drought in the area. Forage availability was limited and surface water was almost non-existent.

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



### **Vegetation**

This HMA is in a transition zone between the Great Basin (cold desert) and the Mojave Desert (hot desert). Common shrubs include smooth horsebrush, spiny menodora, burrobrush, green ephedra, Greene rabbitbrush, and fourwing saltbush. Many of these species are not palatable to wild horses, but wild burros appear to be able to thrive on a variety of plant species. The only trees in the area are Joshua trees.

### **Herd Description**

Animals were removed during emergency drought gathers in 1995, 1996, and 1997.