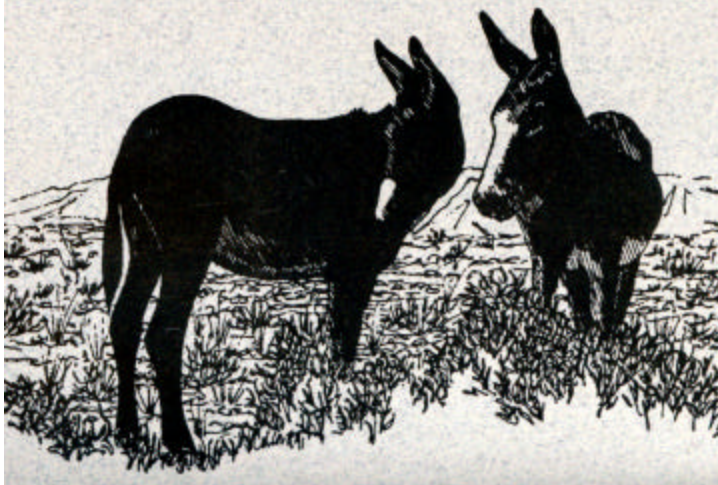




BUREAU OF LAND MANAGEMENT
CARSON CITY DISTRICT, NEVADA

MARIETTA WILD BURRO RANGE

**The Nation's First
Formally Recognized
Wild Burro Range**



MARIETTA WILD BURRO RANGE **THE NATION'S FIRST**



MARIETTA is the Nation's first formally recognized **WILD BURRO RANGE**. The 68,000-acre range is home to 85 burros. The burros roam freely near the ruins of the historic Nevada mining town of Marietta and the seasonally changing Teels Marsh.

The **Marietta Wild Burro Range** was publicly dedicated in 1991 -- the 20th anniversary of passage of the **WILD FREE-ROAMING HORSE AND BURRO ACT**.

The range is located southeast of Hawthorne, Nevada, in Mineral County. The area includes nearly 66,500 acres of public land. Patented mining claims around Teels Marsh and the Marietta mining district account for 1,500 acres of private lands within the area.

A BURRO HAVEN

Designation as a Wild Burro Range means the area may be managed principally, but not necessarily exclusively, for wild burros. This is a national designation conferred by the Director of the Bureau of Land Management (BLM).. One reason for this area's designation as a range is the unique opportunity available for public viewing of the herd and its habitat.

LIVING SYMBOLS OF THE WEST

Congress said "...wild free-roaming horses and burros are living symbols of the historic and pioneer spirit of the West...they contribute to the diversity of life forms within

the Nation and enrich the lives of the American people." The Marietta Wild Burro Range is one of about 15 areas where burros can be found in Nevada. At the time Marietta was dedicated, there were approximately 53,000 wild horses and burros on public lands and Forest Service lands. Most of these animals (30,700 horses and 1,400 burros) reside in Nevada and are managed by the BLM.

THE BURROS' FAMILY TREE

Wild burros (*Equus asinus*) evolved in the deserts of northern Africa and other parts of Asia. They adapted to hot, dry summers, cold winters and marginal food sources. These traits combined with physical strength made the burro a useful pack animal.

Early explorers brought both horses and burros to the New World. Today's populations reflect Nubian (*africanus*) and Somalian (*somaliensis*) characteristics. The Nubian is the most dominant species. It has a black stripe across the shoulders and one that extends down the middle of the back. The Somalian has stripes on both the front and back legs resembling a zebra. Hair color varies from a bluish tint to shades of gray. Combinations of white, black and brown are common.



During the late 1800s, miners used burros as pack animals while prospecting for gold and silver in the Marietta Mining District. Some of these animals escaped or were released into the desert area surrounding Teels Marsh.

The Marietta herd is unique in Nevada, since this is one of the most northern burro populations of any size. The animals themselves are larger than those encountered in areas to the south.

THE BURRO'S MENU

Burros are adaptable to their current environment. They have been known to eat anything from tender, young tree shoots to prickly cactus.



Vegetation throughout the range includes various grasses, brush and trees. The burro prefers Indian ricegrass and four-wing saltbush, but will eat whatever it can to survive.

Even though this area is a desert, there are several springs within the range where the burros seek water. The most used springs are on the west edge of Teels Marsh. During the hot summer months, the burros are usually within two miles of water, especially females with young foals. As fall approaches, the burros disperse and are found at the higher elevations and up to six miles from water.

Wild burros have been known to walk 15 miles without water and then drink five gallons in two and a half minutes, a capability surpassed only by the camel.

GROWING UP WILD

Burros grow to be about half the size of a horse and weigh between 400 and 600 pounds. Males are called jacks, and females are called jennies.

The differences between horses and burros are easy to see. Burros have longer ears and short manes and tails. Burros also "bray" instead of "whinny".

Babies are born once per year usually between March and July. In the wild, mountain lions are the only natural predator.

FOR MORE INFORMATION:

For additional information on the Marietta Wild Burro Range, write or call:

BUREAU OF LAND MANAGEMENT
CARSON CITY DISTRICT OFFICE
1535 HOT SPRINGS ROAD #300
CARSON CITY, NEVADA 89706-0638
Phone: 702-885-6000

REMEMBER!

Unlike the wild burro, you will not have time to adapt to the ever-changing environment.

Take food, plenty of drinking water (two gallons per person per day), warm clothes and a hat. Check your vehicle's spare tire and fuel gauge before venturing down the dirt roads.

Mina, Nevada is the nearest town to the north on Highway 95.

Enjoy viewing the burros, but **DO NOT** attempt to chase or feed them.

Take along a pair of binoculars to see the burros "UP CLOSE".

Some of the property in Marietta is private. The residents would appreciate your respect. Leave things as you find them, and take all your own trash with you.

Lastly, this is an old mining district. Open mine shafts, shaky buildings, unstable rock ruins and rattlesnakes are common. **LOOK** before you **STEP**, **TOUCH** or **CAMP**.



HISTORIC TOWN OF MARIETTA

"Salt mining activity began on Teel's Marsh early in 1867 and the product was sent to mills near Virginia City by long camel trains, and to Aurora by pack mules. While scouting for wood on a nearby mountain in 1872, Francis M. Smith looked with curiosity on the marsh, a dry lake which differed in appearance from other alkali deposits. He and his brother investigated its crusted surface more closely, and after obtaining favorable assays on borate samples, he staked out a large section of the marsh. Word of the discovery brought an influx of California prospectors to stake claims, and soon several small borax plants started operations on the southeastern end of the marsh. Wagon teams also hauled the crude borax to Wadsworth, 115 miles north, for rail shipment to refineries near San Francisco Bay."

"Marietta became a town in 1877 and within a year contained 150 people, post office, and several businesses including a store owned by 'Borax' Smith. A five-stamp mill, originally set up by the state of Nevada at Philadelphia's Centennial Exhibition, was moved here in 1877 and put into successful operation. A large red building with a black smokestack housed the mill, and the town consisted of a sunbaked cluster of wooden and adobe structures and rock huts. Among the rows of buildings, 13 saloons had been built by 1880, and road agent activity was then at its peak. The daily six-horse stage was robbed thirty times that year and in one particular week no less than four times."

"The borax plants on the marsh maintained a small but steady production until their abandonment in the 1890s because of rich colmanite (borax) discoveries near Death Valley. Foundations and stone walls of several structures, including Smith's store, remain."

Reprinted with the permission of Stanley W. Paher, "Nevada Ghost Towns and Mining Camps," 1971, p. 454.



HOW TO GET THERE

It will take just over one hour to drive the 55 miles from Hawthorne, Nevada to the turn-off to Marietta.

Travel south from Hawthorne on Interstate Highway 95. Turn southwest onto State Route 360 towards Benton California. Then turn west onto the maintained dirt county road to Marietta.

You can also reach the Marietta Wild Burro Range by traveling north on Highway 95 from Tonopah. Take Highway 6 west to the 360 turn-off. Continue north to the Marietta turn-off.

