

Forest Service Wild Horse and Burro Program and Sage-Grouse Conservation



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Forest Service Wild Horse and Burro Territories



- 34 active wild horse and burro territories, ~ 2,024,000 acres
- Appropriate management level (AML) population of all territories set at ~ 2000 for horses and 296 for burros
- Current population is ~ 6000 wild horses, ~ 900 wild burros on NFS lands
- = ~ 3 times over AML for horses and burros

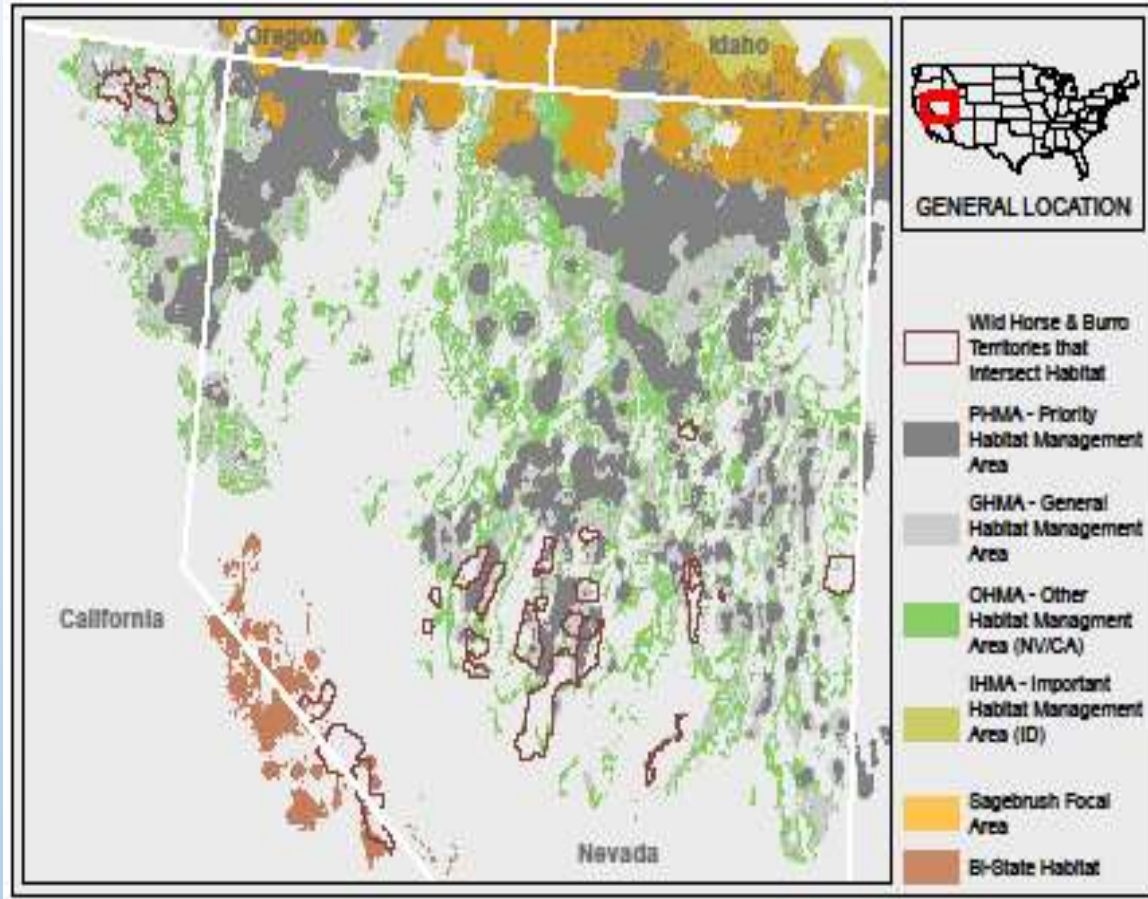
WHB Management on NFS Lands

- Complete NEPA on territory management plans to set AML
- Implement management actions
 - Management actions



- Wild horse and burro gathers (bait trap, helicopter)
- Adoptions / Sales
- Contraception with PZP
- Adopt out FS horses from off territories & BLM long-term holding
- Partner with individuals, support groups, Tribes, local governments, state agencies

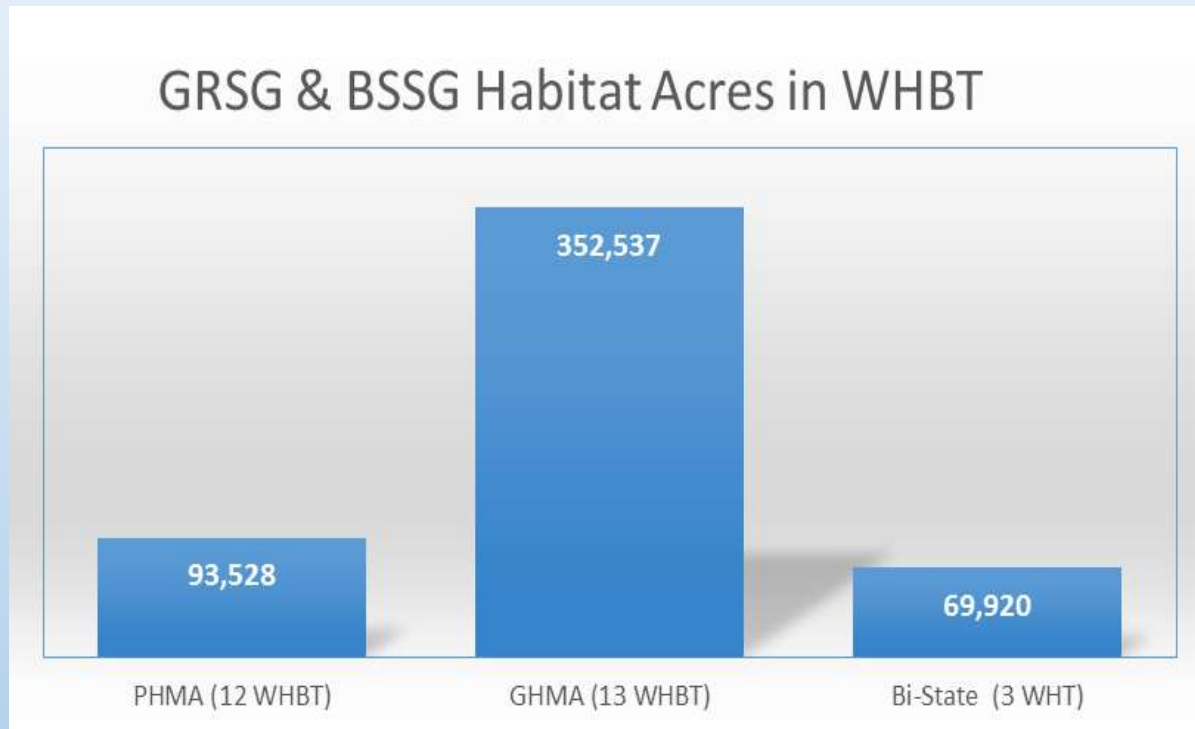
FS WHB Territories and Sage-Grouse Habitat



Wild Horse & Burro territories with GRSG or BSSG habitat

- GRSG and Bi-State Sage-grouse RODs signed 5/2015 and 9/2015
- Set standards and guidelines for wild horse & burro management
- Habitat classified into Sagebrush Focal Areas (SFA), Priority Habitat Management Areas (PHMA), Other Habitat Management Areas (OHMA) and General Habitat Management Areas (GHMA)

WHB and Sage-grouse Conservation



- Greater Sage-Grouse habitat in 12 WHT and 1 WBT, Bi-State Sage Grouse habitat in 3 WHT
- Acres of Greater Sage-Grouse habitat in WHB territories: PHMA = 93,528, GHMA = 352,537
- Acres of Bi-State habitat = 69,920
- No SFA in WHB territories

FS GRSG (NV) and BSSG Management Recommendations (NV, CA)

- GRSG-HB-ST-068-Standard – In priority and general habitat management areas, consider adjusting appropriate management levels, consistent with applicable law, if greater sage-grouse management standards are not met due to degradation that can be at least partially attributed to wild horse or burro populations.
- GRSG-HB-ST-069-Standard – In priority and general habitat areas, remove wild horses and burros outside of a wild horse and burro territory.
- GRSG-HB-GL-070-Guideline – In priority and general habitat areas, herd gathering should be prioritized when wild horse and burro populations exceed the upper limit of the established appropriate management level.
- GRSG-HB-GL-071-Guideline – In priority and general habitat areas, wild horse and burro population levels should be managed at the lower limit of established appropriate management level ranges, as appropriate.
- GRSG-HB-GL-072-Guideline – In priority and general habitat areas, consider exclusion of wild horse or burros immediately following emergency situation (e.g., fire, floods, and drought).
- GSGR – 4” stubble height by end of brood-rearing season, Annual reporting to USFWS
- BSSG-WHB-S-01 – Appropriate management levels in territories and herd management areas with habitat shall be based on the structure, condition, and composition of vegetation needed to achieve bi-state DPS habitat objectives.
 - Maintain wild horse numbers at AML and within designated territory boundaries to minimize the risk of excessive use levels and range expansion
 - Establish AML and management plans, implement gathers, use contraceptive methods

FS WHB Program & Sage-Grouse Monitoring

- Verify appropriate monitoring assessment per GRSB guidelines is conducted in WHB territories
- Establish plots in sage-grouse habitat if not established
- 4” residual stubble height at end of summer brood rearing season
- In NV, identify capability to get to 4” stubble height

