

Forest Service Wild Horse and Burro Program January 2025

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Latest Developments

- 1) Continue to be underfunded for Wild Horse and Burro Management
- 2) Placement rates in both California and New Mexico facilities 95-100%
- 3) In talks to move additional horses from BLM facilities to FS facilities for placement
- 4) Have instituted emergency actions for equine welfare in Utah and Oregon

Current Estimates for Horse and Burro Numbers :

Horses: 8000-8500

AML 3200

Burros: 1000

AML 300



Region 1: Montana, North Dakota(+)

1 Territory: Pryor Mountains

JMA (FS has 10% of designated area and horses)

Working with BLM to develop Territory Plan(BLM has a HMA plan) and strategy for management

Region 3: Arizona and New Mexico

**5 Active Territories, both WHT and WBT
Estimated 1900 horses, 400 Burros**

Bloomfield Corrals in Northern New Mexico

- **Likely to remain closed for extended period**
- **Active collaborative for the Jicarilla territory**

Heber WHT Northern Arizona

- **Nearing Completion of NEPA and Territory Plan**
- **Plan to build corral facility in future**
- **R3 has managed unauthorized horses that are not Wild, protected horses in 2024**

Region 4: Nevada and Utah

19 Territories, many are JMAs

Census Flights were done this year.

Total estimates:

Horses: 1773 Burros: 182

BLM HMAs and FS Territories work together on management.

Region 4: Nevada and Utah

North Hills:

Emergency Action due to drought and loss of water sources

Interagency trap gather removed 115 horses

FS Double Devils Garden Corrals received 2 stallions, 40 mares and fillies, and 20 foals

Region 5: California

8 Active Territories, both WHT and WBT

**Modoc National Forest near Alturas, CA: Double Devils
Garden WHT**

Inyo National Forest: Montgomery Pass WHT



Off-Range Double Devil's Garden Wild Horse Corrals

- 1) Currently managing intakes and adoptions
- 2) Have transferred in 102 horses from BLM corrals, 62 horses from North Hills, Expecting 150 from Murderers Creek
- 3) Transferring 100 horses to trainers from Mustang Heritage and Youth programs
- 4) Gathering 400 horses from the territory.
- 5) Will begin major adoption season on January 20

Double Devil's Garden Wild Horse Corrals Research Projects

USDA Wildlife Services:

- 1) Development of reproductive technologies using injectable and mucosal administration
- 2) Assessment of technology for population and congenital disorder management

USGS Research:

- 1) Effects of predation, migration
- 2) Effects of fertility booster intervals and effectiveness

Double Devil's Garden Wild Horse Corrals

Partnerships

Extreme Mustang Makeover: Non-profit network to support adopters

4H Horse Challenge

Inyo National Forest:

Montgomery Pass Wild Horse Territory: Mono Lake

624 horses seen, primarily outside of the Territory (AML 230)

- 1) NEPA in progress, Objection Period closed
- 2) Decision expected in January
- 3) Removals expected in summer 2025
- 4) State of California entering request for management of horses that are off territory
- 5) Local Government Group very supportive to horse management

Region 6: Oregon

Murderer's Creek WHT in Malheur NF (JMA)

Big Summit WHT (Ochoco NF)

Region 6: Murderer's Creek WHT (JMA)

In process of completing NEPA and JMA Plan

Impacted badly by the Rail Ridge Fire

Emergency removals authorized. First 210 will go to BLM.
Next 150 will go to Devils Garden Corrals.
May gather up to 200 more horses.

Hopefully NEPA decision can be completed January 2025

Big Summit WHT Ochoco National Forest

Territory Plan near completion

Waiting Court Decision to Move Forward

Plans for Wild Horse Adoption Center complete

FS horses in BLM facilities

Excess animals gathered from joint management areas usually go to BLM corrals

FS Region 4 has large number of JMAs

Life-time holding all BLM contracted pastures

FS has 1300+ horses assigned to pastures

Costs are for the lifetime of the horse

FS has ~70 horses in maintenance care in corrals

FS paid \$2.2 mil BLM for horse care in 2024. FS still owes about \$8mil to BLM for horse care. Will increase in current year by approximately \$2.5mil.

Forest Service Wild Horse and Burro Program Funding

Still need consistent funding

Do not anticipate specific WHB allocation in 2025

Increasing awareness of FS needs in wildlife and rangeland management communities

Searching for creative sources for extra funding opportunities

Current Strategies

- ❖ Treat with contraceptives and strategically release some back to the Territory
- ❖ Continue to design management to reach AML
- ❖ Continue to complete NEPAs and Territory Plans
- ❖ Obtain adequate Funding
- ❖ Continue to increase public awareness of the definition of Wild horse
- ❖ Build and staff facilities to remove pressure on the BLM for FS horses
- ❖ Continue to develop and nurture partnerships
- ❖ Work with BLM to transfer horses back to FS facilities for adoption and limit horses added to BLM facilities

Forest Service Wild Horse and Burro Program

Managing the ecosystems and animals

