

Issue Paper: Wild Horses

Resource Management Plans for Western Oregon

Introduction: The Bureau of Land Management (BLM) manages wild horses and burros on public rangelands as mandated by the Wild Free-Roaming Horses and Burros Act of 1971 (PDF), as amended. The BLM protects, manages, and controls wild horses and burros to ensure that healthy herds thrive on healthy rangelands. The BLM manages 17 Herd Management Areas (HMA) in southeast Oregon. The Pokegama herd is the only one affected by this planning effort as 23 percent of the HMA is on BLM-administered land in the planning area.



Key Points:

- The Pokegama herd is currently within the appropriate management level of 30 to 50 horses.
- The Pokegama herd relies primarily on private land within the Herd Management Area.
- 43 Code of Federal Regulations 4720.2-1 states “upon written request from the private landowner to... the BLM, the authorized officer shall remove stray wild horses and burros from private lands as soon as practicable. Since horses are known to spend 80 to 90% of their time on private lands, all of the horses would have to be removed, in order to ensure that the BLM fulfills its regulatory requirement.
- In 2014, a wildfire in the HMA has had a much greater influence on forest structure within the HMA than any potential changes under each of the alternatives could have.
- Horses are managed under a Herd Management Plan, written in 2002, and currently being revised and updated.
- Alternative D, which would eliminate livestock grazing, would reduce competition for forage and provide the potential for increased growth of the Pokegama herd. Otherwise, the alternatives would not differ in their effects on the Pokegama herd.

The Resource Management Plans (RMP) for Western Oregon will determine how the BLM-administered lands in western Oregon will be managed to further the recovery of threatened and endangered species, to provide for clean water, to restore fire-adapted ecosystems, to produce a sustained yield of timber products, to coordinate management of lands surrounding the Coquille Forest with the Coquille Tribe, and to provide for recreation opportunities.

For more information, please visit the BLM’s Resource Management Plans of western Oregon website at <http://www.blm.gov/or/plans/rmpswesternoregon/index.php>.