

Beatys Butte Herd Management Area Lakeview District



LOCATION: The area is located 65 miles east of Lakeview, Oregon. It is adjacent to and southeast of the Hart Mountain Antelope Refuge, is southeast of Catlow Valley, and bordered on the South by the Charles Sheldon National Antelope Refuge.

ACREAGE: 437,120 acres of federal, state and privately owned land.

ELEVATION/LANDMARKS: Beatys Butte, located in the north-central part of the area is the most prominent landmark. It's elevation of 7,885 feet above sea level makes it the highest point in the Lakeview Resource Area. There is a complex of smaller buttes surrounding Beatys Butte.

TOPOGRAPHY/VEGETATION: Vegetation consists primarily of big sagebrush and bunch grasses. Low sagebrush communities are interspersed throughout the area. Topography varies from gently rolling hills to steep rugged hills and buttes with a number of broad valleys and shallow or dry lake beds. Slopes range from 0 to 60%. Precipitation averages 9 inches annually, mainly from winter snowfall. Summers are short, warm and dry while winters are typically long and cold.

WILDLIFE: The area has a wide diversity of wildlife habitats and species including resident, migratory and nomadic populations. Large mammals include California bighorn sheep, pronghorn antelope and mule deer. Animals typical in the area are coyote, raven, red-tail hawk, American kestrel, prairie falcon, turkey vulture, rough-legged hawk, chukar partridge, valley quail, morning dove, Northern harrier, common crow, magpie, great horned owl, mountain lion, bobcat, Great Basin fence lizard and rattlesnake. Also, there are numerous small mammals and wetland birds.

HERD SIZE: 100-250 head.

HORSE COLORS: The majority of the horses are sorrels, browns, roans and grays. A few horses show characteristics of Spanish mustangs, other bloodlines include draft horses, saddle type, and thoroughbred. Horses are managed for quality and conformation.

SIZE OF HORSES: 14-16 hands, 950-1300 pounds.

GENERAL INFORMATION/HISTORY: On March 18, 1998, the Lakeview District entered into an agreement with the U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service for the purpose of improving management of the wild horse population within the Beatys Butte HMA and the Hart Mountain Antelope Refuge. The Service completed a Comprehensive Management Plan effort on Hart Mountain in 1994, with directions to remove all feral horses from the refuge. The feral horses have been removed, future horses that wander onto the refuge from the Beatys Butte HMA, will be considered "wild" and the BLM will be authorized to gather from the refuge using aircraft.