

Heath Creek/Sheepshead Herd Management Area Burns District



LOCATION: Near Sheepshead Mountains in southeastern Oregon

ACREAGE: 200,000 acres

ELEVATION/LANDMARKS: High desert area ranging in elevation from 4,300 to 6,300 feet. Precipitation averages 7-9 inches. There are no perennial streams but several large ephemeral drainages are present.

VEGETATION: Big sagebrush, Idaho fescue and bluebunch wheatgrass as well as cheat grass at the lower elevations.

WILD LIFE: Pronghorn antelope, mule deer, kit fox, rabbit, coyote, badger, bobcat, various rodents, and some upland birds, chukar, sagehen and dove.

HERD SIZE: 161-302 head

HORSE COLORS: Sorrel, bay, black, gray, a few paints and buckskins.

SIZE OF HORSES: 14-15.2 hands and weigh from 950 to 1,050 pounds. Most are of saddle type conformation, showing influence of thoroughbred ancestry.

GENERAL INFORMATION/HISTORY: The Southeastern Oregon Resource Management plan proposes that the Sheepshead HMA of the Vale District and Heath Creek-Sheepshead HMA of the Burns District be combined as there are limited barriers to wild horse movement between the two HMAs.