

## Hog Creek Herd Management Area Vale District



**LOCATION:** Eight miles west of Harper, Oregon.

**ACREAGE:** 21,814 acres

**ELEVATION/LANDMARKS:** Hog Creek Ridge is the most prominent feature. The HMA is small but very scenic with deep canyons and steep ridges which provide extraordinary vistas from the tops.

**VEGETATION:** Sagebrush/grass with some Juniper.

**WILD LIFE:** Mule Deer, elk, pronghorn, sage grouse, cougar, and raptors of all kinds.

**HERD SIZE:** 30-50 head

**HORSE COLORS:** Bay, brown, black, sorrel, red roan, palomino, buckskin

**SIZE OF HORSES:** The horses are good sized, saddle type, ranging from 15-16 hands and weigh from 950 to 1300 pounds.

**GENERAL INFORMATION/HISTORY:** The Hog Creek area is not especially remote in relation to main highways or populated areas. It is however, not easily accessed because of few passable roads. During wintertime, severe conditions can and usually do occur, making it even more difficult to access by road until late spring or early summer. Genetic analysis in 2004 indicated similarity with North American Gaited breeds and New World Iberian breeds, with some indication of "cold blood" (draft horse or pony).

This HMA was gathered in 1997 and 2003. Shortly after the 1997 gather, 3 new stallions were introduced to Hog Creek HMA to help ensure genetic viability. One bay stallion from Jackies Butte HMA, and two red roans from the South Steens HMA, were selected since they were representative of the herd characteristics for size and saddle horse type conformation. The bay stallion disappeared the first year after being transplanted, but the two red roan horses continue to contribute greatly to the overall quality of the herd.