

Paisley Desert Herd Management Area Lakeview District



LOCATION: Ten miles northeast of Paisley Oregon and fifteen miles southeast of Christmas Valley Oregon.

ACREAGE: 271,667 acres of the original 303,526 in the herd area is managed for wild horses. The remaining 31,859 acres is unavailable to wild horses.

ELEVATION/LANDMARKS: Sheeprock (elevation 5700 feet) and St. Patrick's Mountain (elevation 5950 feet) are prominent topographic landmarks. The topography is best described as rocky, with a series of steep southeast to northwest trending rims. The area between rims is composed of wide swales and closed basin type lakebeds.

VEGETATION: Vegetation varies within the HMA. The majority of the area is covered with dense stands of shrubs. The most abundant are varieties of sagebrush including Wyoming big sagebrush, Basin big sagebrush and black sagebrush. Large pockets of rabbit brush, spiny hopsage, and greasewood are also found in the HMA. Grasses common to the area are bluebunch wheatgrass, Sandbergs bluegrass, Indian ricegrass and bottlebrush squirreltail.

HERD SIZE: 60-150 HEAD

HORSE COLORS: The Paisley Desert HMA has a wide variety of colors including solid colors of bay, brown and black as well as pinto, palomino and dun.

SIZE OF HORSES: Variable from 14 to 16 hands and 950-1300 pounds. Genetic analysis determined similarity with the Gaited North American breeds such as Morgan, Saddlebred, and Kentucky Mountain Saddle Horse and also the New World Iberian breeds.

GENERAL INFORMATION/HISTORY: The area is typical of the high desert region. Precipitation averages less than 10 inches per year and generally occurs in the late fall and winter in the form of snow. Drinking water is provided by a series of closed basin lakebeds. Wildlife in the area includes bighorns sheep, antelope, mule deer and sage grouse along with a variety of common birds, mammal and reptiles associated with south eastern Oregon.