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# GO WILD HORSE AND BURRO WATCHING!

BLM  
Nevada

THE SIGHT OF A WILD HORSE, HEAD HELD HIGH, EARS ALERT, LONG MANE SPILLING OVER FOREHEAD AND NECK, IS THRILLING TO SEE. THE MAJESTY, WILDNESS AND WARINESS OF THESE ANIMALS STIR EMOTIONS AND, IN ONE'S HEART, THERE IS A KNOWING THAT THESE ANIMALS BELONG IN THE LANDSCAPE OF THE WEST.



## FEDERAL MANAGEMENT

Nevada is the Silver State, but could also be called the Wild Horse and Burro State since about half of the nation's wild horses and wild burros free-roam on public lands primarily managed by the Bureau of Land Management, Nevada. The places where most of the wild horses and burros are found are identified as herd management areas, or HMAs. The HMAs highlighted in this brochure offer good chances of seeing these animals. They move with the seasons seeking food and water so they will be found in different parts of the HMAs throughout the year.

## VIEWING AND SAFETY - WHAT TO BRING:

- Binoculars
- Camera
- Sturdy shoes
- Plenty of food and water
- Sunscreen
- Warm clothing or layers
- Bug spray
- Hat
- Durable tires and a spare tire
- Full tank of gas
- Coverage can be unreliable



**PLEASE DON'T APPROACH WILD HORSES OR BURROS.**

It is against Federal law to harass or remove a wild horse or burro from public land.

Nevada State Law makes it illegal to camp within 300 feet of a spring or water hole as this will prevent animals from approaching these life-giving sources.

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# COLORS AND PATTERNS

Seeing the variety of colors and markings is one of the interesting things to do while watching wild horses and burros as you travel around Nevada!

Predominant colors of wild horses are sorrels, bays and browns, but there are many variations of colors throughout Nevada's HMAs.

## WILD HORSES

**Appaloosa:** Colorful spotted or roan coat patterns, striped hooves, and mottled or spotted skin.

**Bay:** Red or brown with black points.

**Black:** Solid black, including points.

**Blue Roan:** Mixture of white and black hairs on the body, and darker on head and lower legs.

**Brown:** Body is brown or black with light areas around muzzle, eyes, flank, and inside upper legs, with black points.

**Buckskin:** Tan with black points.

**Dun:** Red, brown or tan with a dorsal stripe and possible striping on the legs.

**Gray:** Can vary from almost white to almost black. Gray horses tend to lighten up as they age or change color yearly.

**Grullo:** The term is Spanish for mouse colored. Smokey gray with a dorsal stripe and black points.

**Palomino:** Golden yellow with white mane and tail.

**Pinto:** Large solid patches of white and another body color.

**Red Roan:** Mixture of white with red hairs, red on head and lower legs, red or flaxen mane and/or tail.

**Sorrel:** Most are entirely reddish in color.

**White:** Various shades from bright white to pale tan.

## WILD BURROS

**Gray:** Various shades of gray with white muzzle. Most have a visible dorsal stripe and lines down their withers/shoulders that form a cross pattern.

**Pinto:** Large solid patches of white and another body color.

**Black:** Black, usually with white muzzle, eyes and ears.

**Maltese:** Rare color pattern of solid black, brown or gray, including the muzzle.

**Pink:** Usually a roan pattern of reddish pink with white.



## MARKINGS TO LOOK FOR

### DORSAL STRIPE

A stripe down the animal's backbone.

### POINTS

Legs from knees down, mane and tail.

## WHAT IS A WILD HORSE?

Nevada's wild horses and burros were brought here by miners, ranchers, missionaries, and others. These wild animals now reflect the many colors, sizes and ancestral breeds brought here during the settlement of the West. You might see rare Curly horses with their curly rings of hair all over their bodies—as well as curly eyelashes, kinky manes and tails and curly hair in their ears. Another interesting aspect of these animals is that—like the poodles of the dog world—they are hypoallergenic!

## WHAT IS A BURRO?

Burros grow to be about half the size of a horse. Males are called jacks, and females are called jennies. The differences between horses and burros are easy to see and hear. Burros have longer ears and shorter manes and tails and they bray instead of whinny.

Most burros, regardless of coat color, will have dorsal stripes and shoulder crosses, dark ear marks, as well as light points of white muzzle and eye rings, and white belly and inner legs.

## WHAT IS A BAND?

Wild horses and burros form small bands or family groups consisting of a dominant stallion, a lead mare, other mares and their young. When young males are about two years old and weaned, they are forced to leave the band. These adolescent studs join bachelor bands with other males.

By watching a band of wild horses closely, you may be able to identify the lead mare, the dominant stallion, or a bachelor band.

