



USDA Forest Service Wild Horse and Burro Program

National Wild Horse and Burro Advisory Board Virtual Meeting

The Forest Service, an agency of the U.S. Department of Agriculture, manages wild horses and burros pursuant to the Wild Free-Roaming Horses and Burros Act (Public Law 92-195), as amended and per direction provided in 36 CFR 222.60 and Forest Service Manual (FSM) 2260.

In accordance with the act, as amended, “all management activities shall be at the minimal feasible level.” Wild horses and burros are recognized as an integral part of the natural ecosystem within designated areas of National Forest System lands.

They are to be managed, protected, and controlled, and populations should be maintained “in a thriving ecological balance in the areas they inhabit on national forests.”

Territories and Populations

The Forest Service maintains 53 wild horse and burro territories across 9 States (see map on next page). Thirty-four of these territories are actively managed.

Populations of wild horses and burros are currently well above the appropriate management level.



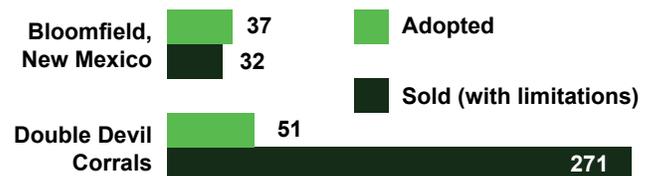
2020 Gathers

- The Modoc National Forest is continuing to plan a gather of 500 additional excess horses off the Devils Garden Plateau in September 2020.
- Malheur National Forest has plans to remove around 25–50 nuisance horses from private and State land outside of the Murderers Creek Territory.
- The Carson National Forest continues to work with Homeland Habitat to trap nuisance horses that wonder off territory.



Horse herds can become a nuisance for land owners if not managed properly. (USDA Forest Service photo)

2020 Placement Statistics



Forest Service Off-Range Infrastructure

Carson National Forest is planning to expand the Bloomfield holding corral system to be used, where appropriate, for other forests within the region.

Modoc National Forest is home to the temporary Double Devil Wild Horse corral system that could be expanded or made more permanent.



Mares and colts at the Bloomfield, NM, corral in Carson National Forest. (USDA Forest Service photo)

The USDA Forest Service Wild Horse and Burro Program objective is to maintain thriving, wild free-roaming horse and burro populations in ecological balance with national forest and rangeland ecosystems.



A map of the active wild horse and burro territories in the USDA Forest Service.

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