

Little Book Cliffs Wild Horse Range

Quick Facts

Updated as of August 2013

Current Population

The current wild horse population on the Little Book Cliffs Wild Horse Range (LBCWHR) is approximately 154 adult wild horses, including the current year foals. The population exceeds the established Appropriate Management Level (AML) of 90-150 horses.

The AML is determined based upon extensive range and wild horse monitoring over numerous years. The studies include trend, ecological condition, forage use, actual use, census, climate and weather/precipitation data.

Grazing

There is NO livestock grazing authorized within the LBCWHR, but a variety of big-game wildlife species use the range, including deer and big-horn sheep.

Removing Wild Horses and Burros from the Range and Placing Animals in Adoption

Most wild horse removed from the LBCWHR have been adopted or placed in private care. The LBCWHR has a very high adoption rate.

For more information about adoptions, please visit [How to Adopt](#) and the national adoption schedule. Please see the 2013 gather FAQs for specific adoption information.

Mixed Method Management

The BLM uses a variety of methods to ensure the health of the Little Book Cliffs wild horse herd and health of the rangelands these horses inhabit. The BLM relies heavily on the Friends of the Mustangs to assist in fertility drug treatments and this has contributed to our reduced gather frequency in the area.

Fertility Control

Porcine zona pellucida (PZP), a fertility control drug, has been used on the LBCWHR since 2002. Approximately 25-35 percent of the mares within the LBCWHR herd received fertility treatment each year.

With regard to a call by some groups for a moratorium on all BLM gathers of herds, this is untenable since the ecosystems of public rangelands are not able to withstand the impacts from overpopulated herds, which include soil erosion, sedimentation of streams, and damage to wildlife habitat. As for the 1971 Wild Free-Roaming Horses and Burros Act, Section 1333 of that law mandates that once the

Interior Secretary "determines...on the basis of all information currently available to him, that an overpopulation exists on a given area of the public lands and that action is necessary to remove excess animals, he shall immediately remove excess animals from the range so as to achieve appropriate management levels."

BLM Legal Mandates

The BLM manages the nation's public lands for multiple uses, in accordance with the 1976 Federal Land Policy and Management Act. The BLM manages wild horses and burros as part of this multiple-use mandate.

The BLM manages, protects, and controls wild horses and burros under the authority of the 1971 Wild Free-Roaming Horses and Burros Act (as amended by Congress in 1976, 1978, 1996 and 2004). This law requires authorizes the BLM to remove excess wild horses and burros from the range to sustain the health and productivity of public lands.

Law Enforcement

In enforcing the 1971 Act, the BLM continues to work with law enforcement authorities in the investigation and prosecution of those who violate this landmark law. The text of the law can be accessed [here](#).

How You Can Help

Work with us to ensure the herd is here for your grandchildren's children. Volunteer by visiting the BLM's [Get Involved](#) webpage and sign up now.