

# Pryor Mountain Wild Horse Range

## Quick Facts

**Updated as of August 2014**

### **Current Population**

The current wild horse population on the Pryor Mountain Wild Horse Range (PMWHR) is approximately 158 adult wild horses. A total of 16 foals were born this year; one did not survive. The population exceeds the established Appropriate Management Level (AML) of 90-120 horses, excluding the current year foals.

### **Grazing**

There is **no** livestock grazing authorized within the PMWHR, but a variety of big-game wildlife species utilize the range, including deer and big-horn sheep.

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

Every wild horse ever removed from the PMWHR has been adopted or placed in private care. The PMWHR has a 100% adoption rate.

For more information about adoptions, please visit [How to Adopt](#) and the [national adoption schedule](#).

### **Mixed Method Management**

The BLM uses a variety of methods to ensure the health of the Pryor wild horse herd and health of the rangelands these horses inhabit. In addition to gathering the number of wild horses that exceed the determined capacity the range can sustain, the BLM also implements aggressive fertility control, allows for natural management to occur and has developed water guzzlers and spring developments to encourage the wild horses to utilize areas of the range that can withstand more grazing use.

### **Fertility Control**

Porcine zona pellucida (PZP), now under the EPA approved brand name ZonaStat-H a fertility control drug, has been used on the PMWHR since 2001. Since 2010, between 70-80% of the mares within the PMWHR herd received fertility treatment. This is the highest percentage of mares ever treated within this particular herd. Over the next five years, the BLM's goal is to reach an 80% to 85% treatment rate utilizing liquid PZP administered through the current remote darting program.

## Guzzlers

The higher and lower elevations of the range have historically suffered resource damage from wild horse overgrazing. Use of the middle part of the range is limited due to few water sources. In 2010, in partnership with individual volunteers, Pryor Mountain Wild Mustang Center, Foundation for North American Wild Sheep, Montana Conservation Corps, U.S. Forest Service and National Park Service, the BLM placed water guzzlers in these less utilized areas to encourage use. We have begun to see wild horse use and monitoring is ongoing.

Some groups call for a ban on all BLM gathers of herds, but this is untenable since the ecosystems of public rangelands are not able to withstand the impacts from overpopulated herds. These impacts 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.*"

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

## BLM's 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 Bureau 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 the BLM to remove excess wild horses and burros from the range to sustain the health and productivity of the 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.

## **Appropriations Bill - USDA Inspection of Horse Processing Allowed to Resume**

The BLM has taken no position on proposed anti- or pro-slaughter legislation, which would affect domestic or privately owned horses, not wild horses. It is important to note that the BLM is not and has not been selling or sending wild horses to slaughter, as stated on our [Myths and Facts](#) page, nor are we considering putting down healthy horses for which there is no adoption demand.