

Winnemucca

late 90's

JACKSON MOUNTAINS HERD MANAGEMENT AREA

The Jackson Mountains Herd Management Area (HMA) is located in central Humboldt County, approximately 45 miles northwest of Winnemucca, Nevada. The area is bordered on the west by the Black Rock Desert, on the east by Desert Valley, on the north by State Highway 140 and the Quinn River, and on the south by the Union Pacific railroad. The elevation ranges from 8,923 feet at King Lear Peak to approximately 4,000 feet along the valley floors. The area is approximately 283,000 acres: 274,920 acres (97%) public land and 8,080 acres (3%) private land.

The Jackson Mountains HMA encompasses most of the Jackson Mountain Range. The HMA is contained within parts of six livestock grazing allotments: Jackson Mountains, Desert Valley, Bottle Creek, Deer Creek, Happy Creek, and Wilder-Quinn. The largest allotment, and the one which contains the most wild horses, is the Jackson Mountains Allotment. The horses are concentrated in the southern half of the allotment south of Navajo Peak. The Desert Valley allotment contains no wild horses. Horses captured in the fall of 1997 were from the Jackson Mountains, Happy Creek and Deer Creek Allotments.

The vegetative composition of the area included big sagebrush (*Artemisia tridentata*), rabbitbrush (*Chrysothamnus* spp.), juniper (*Juniperus osteosperma*), quaking aspen (*Populus tremuloides*), serviceberry (*Amelanchier alnifolia*), snowberry (*Symphoricarpos* spp.), oceanspray (*Holodiscus discolor*), miscellaneous annual forbes, Sandberg bluegrass (*Poa secunda*), bluebunch wheatgrass (*Agropyron spicatum*), and Idaho fescue (*Festuca idanhoensis*), which predominate at the higher elevations. Shadscale (*Atriplex confertifolia*), greasewood (*Sarcobatus vermiculatum*), bud sagebrush (*Artemisia spinescens*), horsebrush (*Tetradymia* spp), clasping pepperweed (*Lepidium perfoliatum*), seepweed (*Sueda* spp), cheatgrass (*Bromus tectorum*), and squirreltail (*Sitanion hystrix*), predominate at the lower elevations. The primary forage species for wild horses are the perennial grasses: bluegrass, wheatgrass, fescue and squirreltail.

The appropriate management level (AML) for wild horses in the HMA is managed in a range from 141 to 217 head. Periodic removals are conducted to maintain the population within the management range. The majority of the horses exhibit a bay, brown, black or sorrel color pattern.

The HMA also provides habitat for domestic livestock, mule deer, bighorn sheep, pronghorn antelope, sage grouse, chukar partidge and various species of birds, rodents, and reptiles. Wildlife and wild horses inhabit the area year round. Livestock use the area in the spring and summer months.

Mines are present in the area but are largely inactive at this time. Recreational use of the area includes hunting, fishing, rockhounding, hiking and dispersed camping. Three Wilderness Study Areas are partially contained within the HMA: North Jackson Mountains, South Jackson Mountains and Black Rock Desert.

This information supplied by:

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