



Toquima Wild Horse Territory

The Toquima Wild Horse Territory (WHT) is administered by the Austin/Tonopah Ranger District, Humboldt-Toiyabe National Forest.

Location/Habitat

The Toquima WHT is located in Nevada approximately 50 miles north of Tonopah. The territory consists of about 135,000 acres of National Forest land within the Toquima Mountain Range.

The Toquima WHT is divided between a remote mountainous area and remote arid foothills. Vegetation consists of low sagebrush communities, wet and dry mountain meadows, and pinyon-juniper communities.

Wildlife present within the territory include elk, deer, mountain lion, sage grouse, coyote, badger, raptors and reptiles.

Livestock grazing is permitted within the territory.

History

Although Spaniards brought horses with them to the Nevada area in the 16th and 17th centuries, it is believed that progeny from strays of early emigrants, as well as abandoned and stray animals from early mining booms and settlement of homesteads account for much of the current wild horse population in the Toquima territory. Many of the abandoned animals were the result of economic slumps and periodic droughts which plagued the early settlers. Prior to the passing of the Wild Free-Roaming Horse and Burro Act of 1971, it was common practice for local ranchers to periodically release studs with “good blood” to “upgrade” the herds. Roundups would occasionally be held and suitable animals would either be sold or kept on the ranch, trained, and used as cow ponies.

Herd Description

The Toquima WHT is populated with 30-50 horses. Most often the horses are gray, brown, sorrel, or bay in color, although roans and buckskins can also be found in this herd.

For More Information

Contact the Tonopah Ranger District at 775-482-6286.

