

No Action Alternative

Adverse impacts may occur from trampling and erosion from livestock, horse, and wildlife. If a cultural site is discovered and determined to be eligible or remains unevaluated, additional mitigation may be required.

The JD Allotment resides outside of the Roberts Mountain HMA but includes the Roberts Pasture, which is the location of the Birch Creek fence. The original HA acres spanned 225,908 while the HMA acres only included 99,992, a loss of 125,916 acres.

Roberts Mountain Grazing Allotment FMUD 1994 - Excerpts

Roberts Mountain AML is 150. AUMS = 1,800 throughout entire HMA.
Roberts Mountain Grazing Allotment issues 984 AUMs for wild horse use = 82 wild horses.

Objectives for Wild Horses as outlined on page

D.

1. Initially manage to provide 984 AUMs of forage within the Roberts Mountain HMA. 64.6% of the HMA is within this allotment.
2. Maintain or improve wild horse habitat in a condition which enhances their wild and free-roaming behavior, in conformance with other objectives of the RMP.
3. Maintain or improve wild horse habitat by ensuring free access to water, in conformance with other objectives of the RMP.

Horse use averaged 1,296 AUMs of forage per year during the ten year monitoring period. Use pattern maps of the part of Roberts Mountain Allotment, which is within the HMA documents actual use as being light to moderate, with the exception of Nichols Seeding, which is classified as heavy.

Wild Horse Management Decision

Monitoring data reflects that a thriving ecological balance is not being obtained in the Roberts Mountain Allotment primarily due to wild horses establishing residence outside the HMA. Based on the information provided, wild horse use shall be adjusted and managed at 1,106 AUMs (92 horses).

This regulation was cited within the 1994 FMUD

§4710.3–1 Herd management areas.

Herd management areas shall be established for the maintenance of wild horse and burro herds. In delineating each herd management area, the authorized officer shall consider the appropriate management level for the herd, the habitat requirements of the animals, the relationships with other uses of the public and adjacent private lands, and the constraints contained in §4710.4. The

authorized officer shall prepare a herd management area plan, which may cover one or more herd management areas.

Counter it with-

§4710.4 Constraints on management.

Management of wild horses and burros shall be undertaken with the objective of limiting the animals' distribution to herd areas. Management shall be at the minimum level necessary to attain the objectives identified in approved land use plans and herd management area plans.

Big game total AUMs 2,450.

These figures are a total for both the Roberts Mountain allotment and the Three Bars Allotment.

7. To provide forage for 1,710 mule deer (2,992 AUMs) from April 1 to October 31 and for 480 mule deer (600 AUMs) from November 1 to March 31.

*Indicates that mule deer require 1.25 to 1.7 AUMs per deer in this allotment.

The existing use by big game species has decreased from 1,735 AUMS to 1041. (As of 1994)

LCT was in area in 1994, have not been recently introduced. Plan to increase carrying capacity to 1,500 LCT per mile of stream.

Cattle authorized use is 11,362 AUMs for a 2 year evaluation period.

This FMUD period ended in 2004.

Three Bars FMUD 1994

Big Game

1,415 AUMs of big game use.

Existing big game numbers have declined by 40% since the RMP was written in 1986.

Wild Horse

Initially manage to provide 540 AUMs of forage within the Three Bars Allotment portion of the Roberts Mountain Herd Use Area. 45 wild horses.

Aerial census records throughout the evaluation period show wild horses grouped in the southern portion of the HMA, in the Coils Pasture/Kobeh Valley area. Horse use averaged 668 AUMs (55 wild horses) during the ten year monitoring time period. Use pattern maps formulated for the

Coils Pasture throughout the monitoring process reflect only slight to moderate use within the Coils Pasture.

Due to range improvements and mining activity, horses concentrate within the southern portion of the HMA. Water sources in the north-central portion of the HMA are not always available, as horse movement to this portion of the HMA is often impeded.

Within Coils Pasture, only Mud Springs has water available on a year around basis. This spring is not located within the Three Bars Allotment. It is in the adjoining Roberts Mountain Allotment, within the Kobeh Valley. Other water sources within the Coils Pasture are controlled by the permittee. Lack of water within Coils Pasture causes horses to extend into Roberts Mountain Allotment, as stated above and also southward, outside the Roberts Mountain HMA boundary.

Until the pasture fence is constructed between Horse and Coils pasture did they ever construct it?

Monitoring data reflects that a thriving ecological balance is being obtained in the Coils Pasture, but is not being maintained in the Cottonwood and Meado pastures. Based on the information provided, wild horse use in the Three Bars Allotment for this portion of the Roberts Mountain HMA shall be adjusted and managed at 697 AUMs (58 horses for 12 months)

Livestock Grazing

FMUD changed grazing from:
7,255 AUMs to 4,589 AUMs

Roberts Mountain Habitat Management Plan – No objectives have been achieved yet.