



Bureau of Land Management Wild Horse and Burro Program



BLM

Rawlins Field Office





The BLM mission...

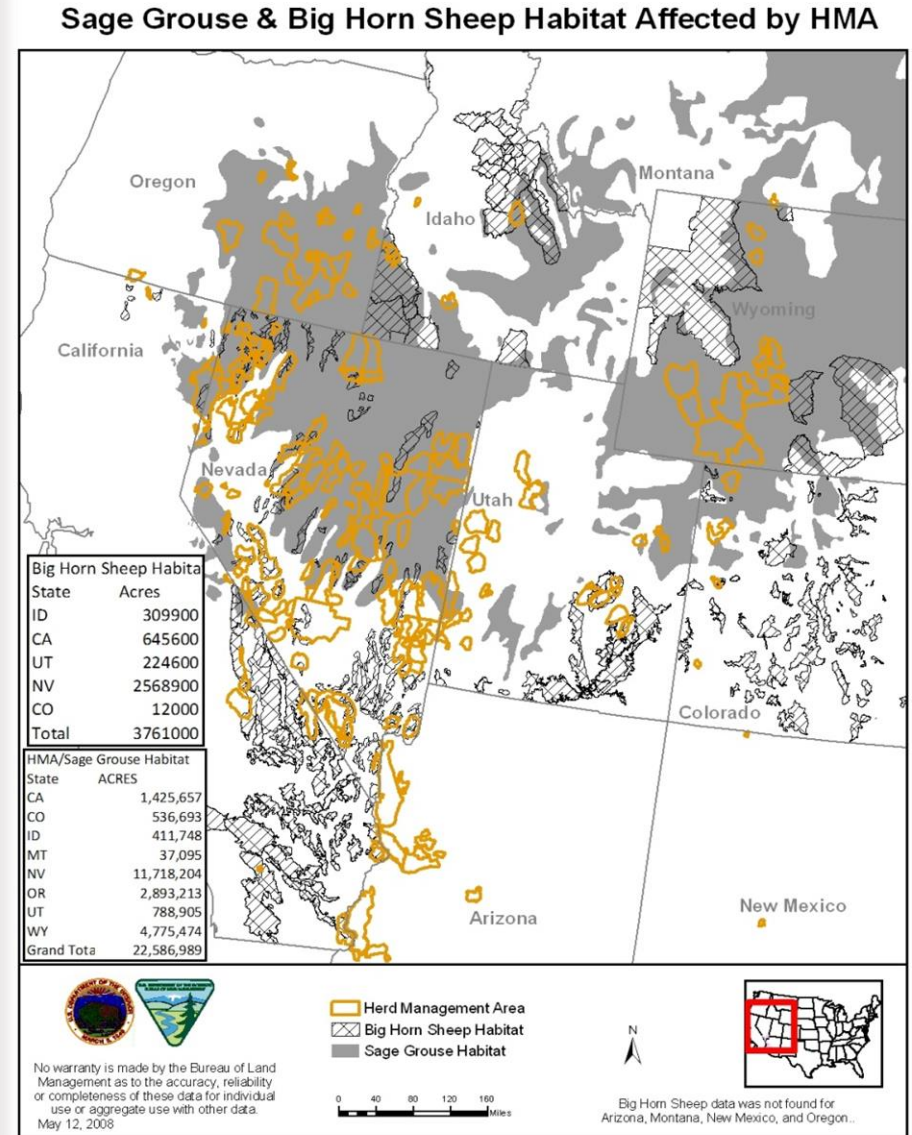
To manage the public lands to sustain the health, diversity, and productivity for the use and enjoyment of present and future generations.



BLM's Public Lands are Shared

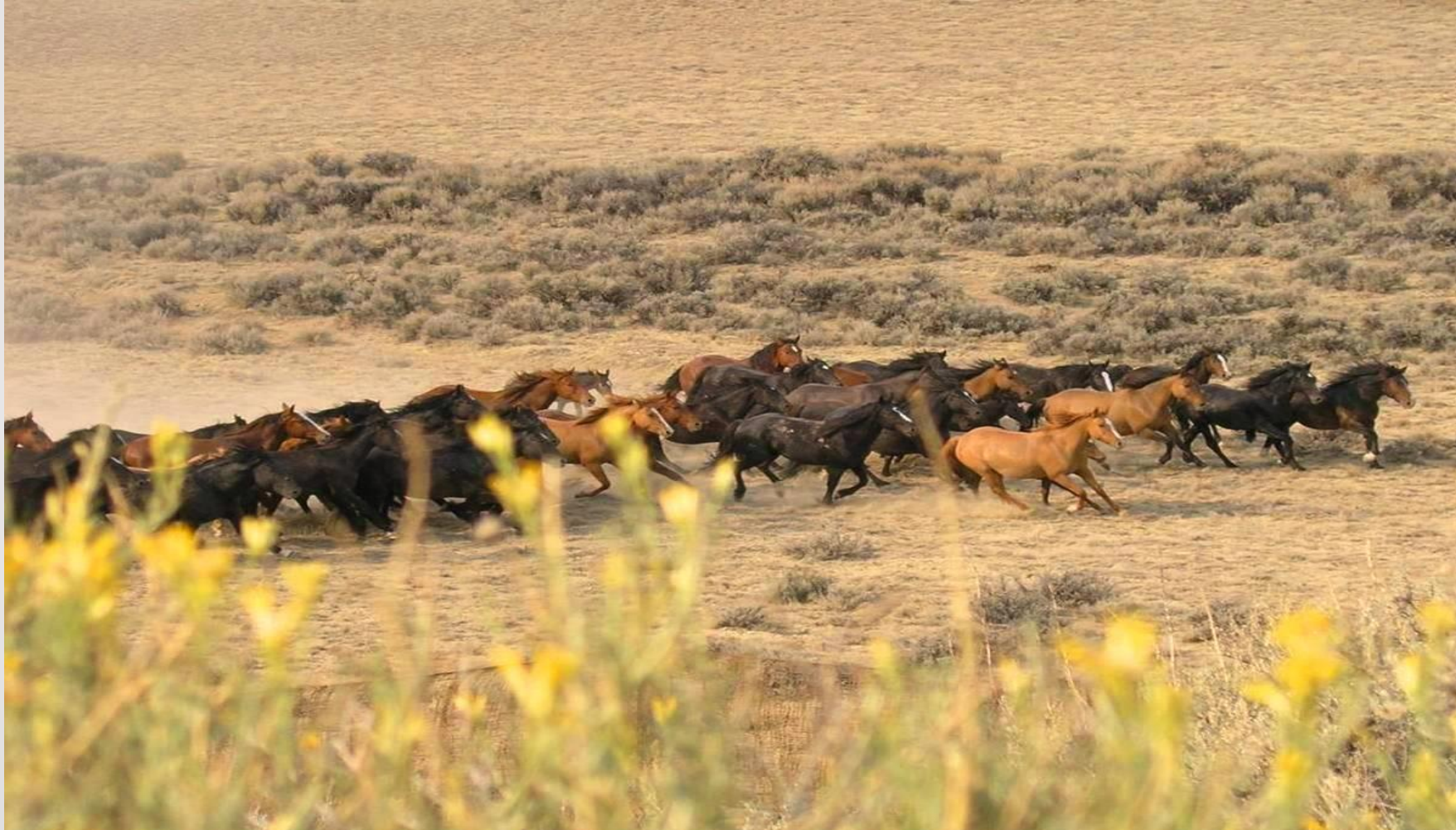
BLM's multiple-use mandate includes:

- Wildlife Habitat
- Watersheds
- Fisheries
- Recreation
- Cultural Resources
- Energy
- Livestock
- Wilderness
- Endangered Species
- Timber Harvest



What is a wild horse?

A wild horse, as defined by federal law, is an unbranded, unclaimed, free-roaming horse found on public lands in the United States.



Where did America's wild horses originate?



- Spanish Explorers
- Native Americans
- Pioneers/Settlers
- Ranchers/Farmers
- Calvary Remounts
- Miners
- Estrays

The 1800 and 1900's



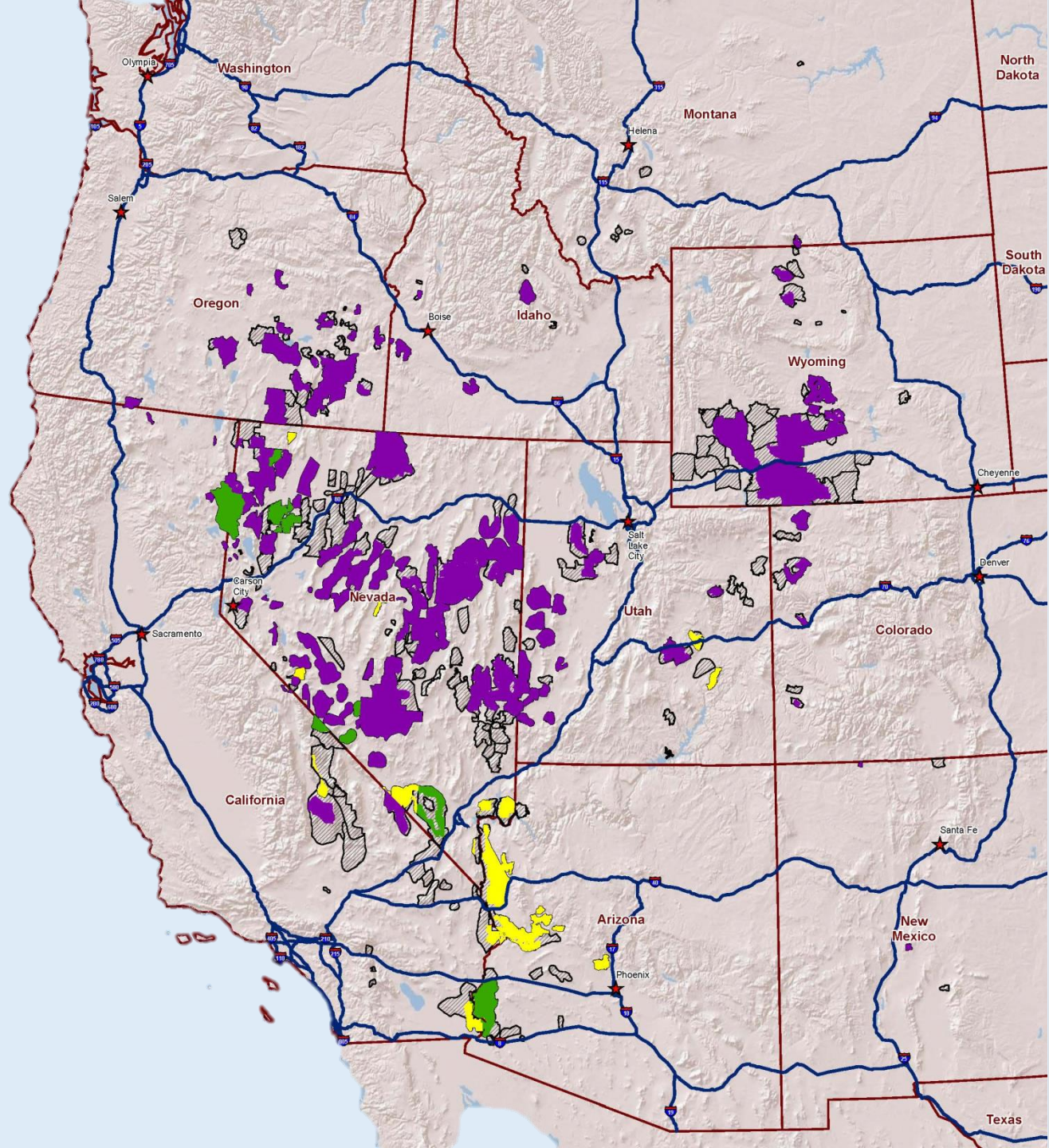
Mid-20th Century

- Wild horses harvested for commercial purposes
- By the late 1950's, about 25,000 wild horses and burros remained
- Key Acts of Congress that provided protection for wild horses were enacted, they were:
 - 1- Wild Horse Annie Act of 1959- Made motorized craft illegal to hunt or chase wild horses.
 - 2- The Wild Free Roaming Horses and Burros Act of 1971- **“Declared the wild horses and burros“...living symbols of the West; that they contribute to the diversity of life forms within the Nation and enrich the lives of the American people; and these horses and burros are fast disappearing from the American scene.”**

Mid-20th Century

- 3- Federal Land Policy and Management Act of 1976- Authorized BLM to issue and enforce regulations, use motorized craft for management, and ability to collect fees and adopt wild horses. Also required Land Use Plans and horses managed as a part of those uses.
- 4- Public Rangelands Improvement Act of 1978- Congress appropriated funds to inventory populations, maintain populations, determine if excess horse are present, and remove excess.

BLM's Herd Areas (HAs) & Herd Management Areas (HMAs)

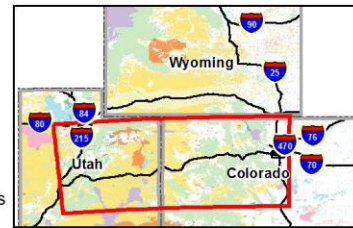
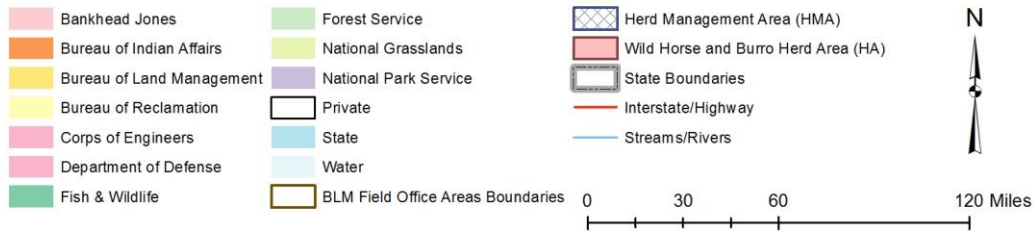
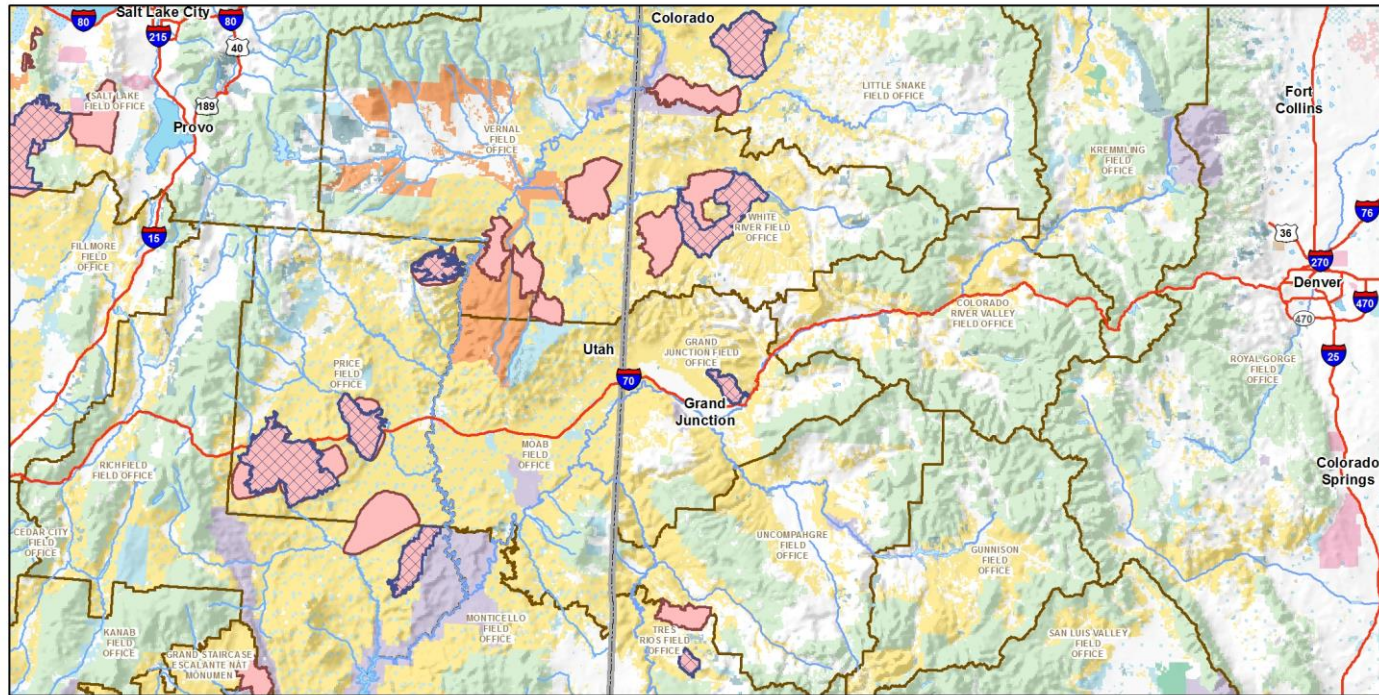


Horse Areas in Colorado

- Little Book Cliff's
- Sand Wash Basin
- Piceance – East Douglas Creek
- Spring Creek Basin

HMA's/HA's in Colorado

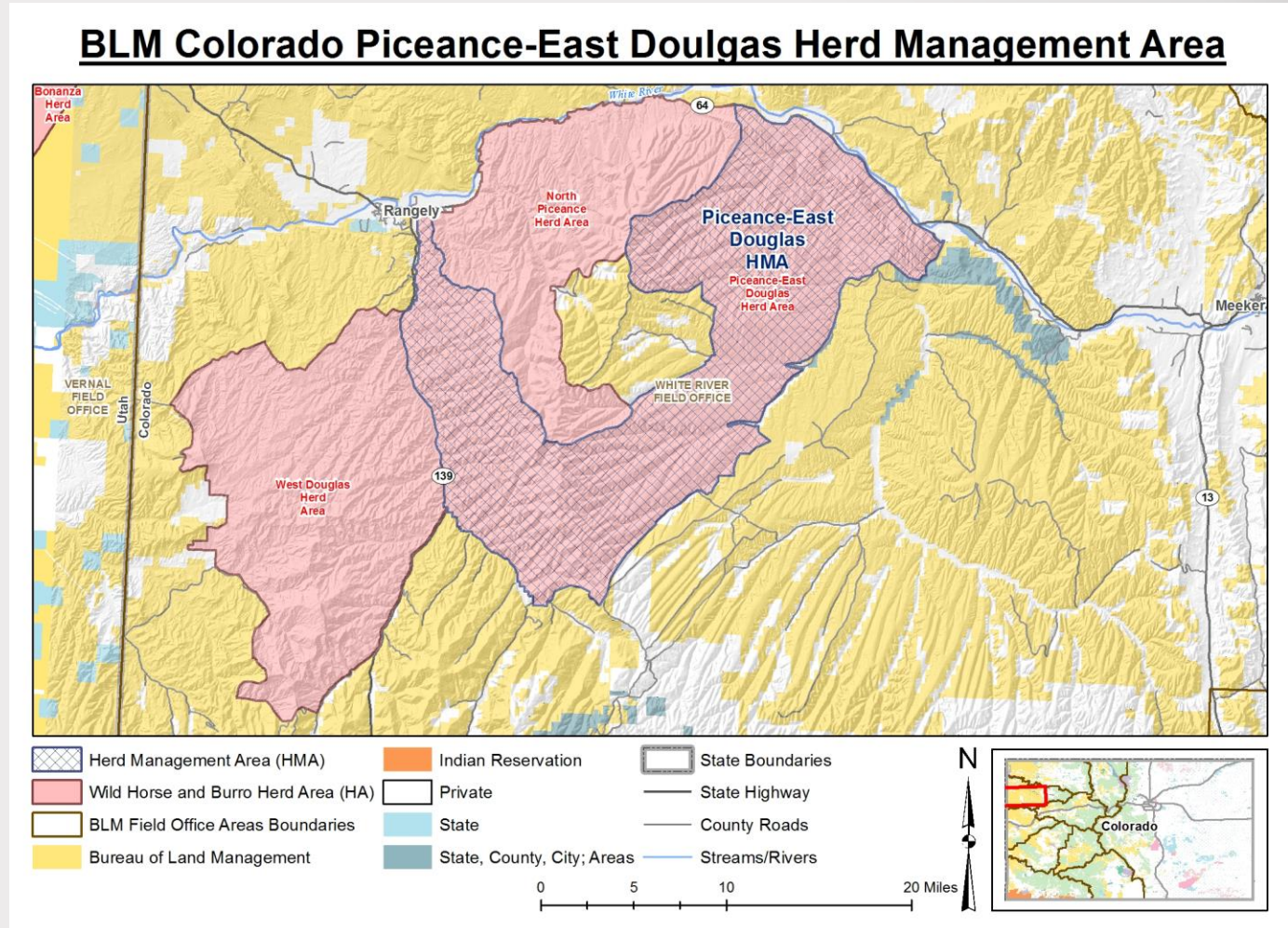
BLM Colorado Wild Horse Herd Management Area's (HMA) and Herd Area's (HA)



- Four HMA's in Colorado
- Covering 404,013 total acres
- Current estimated population is 1,702

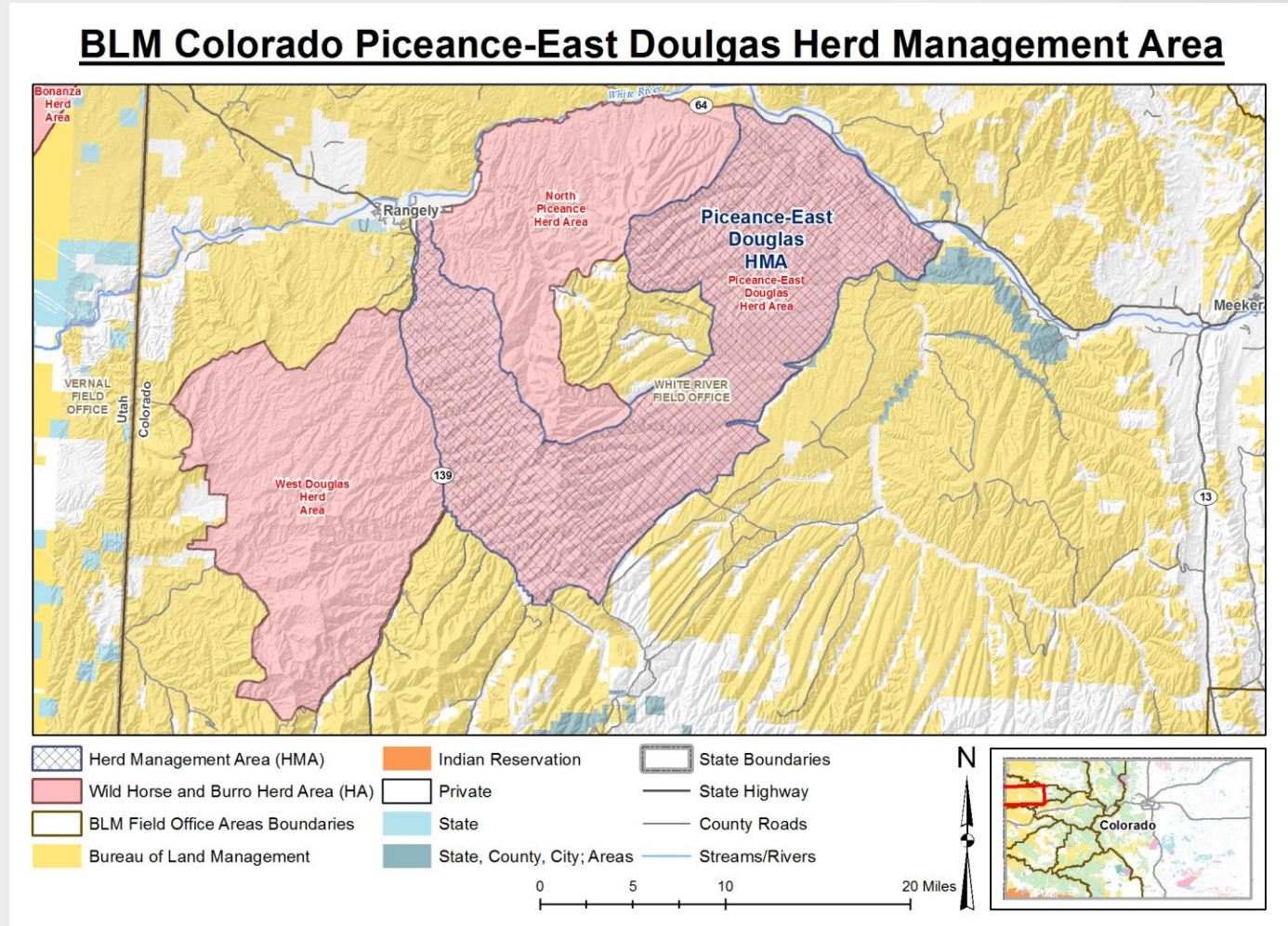
Piceance-East Douglas

- PED- 190,016 Acres.
- AML 135-235
- NP- 118,405 Acres
- NP AML is 0
- Estimated populations
 - PED- 485
 - NP- 51
- Partnership
 - Piceance Mustangs
 - Goals
- Over 2,000 volunteer hours in 2018



West Douglas

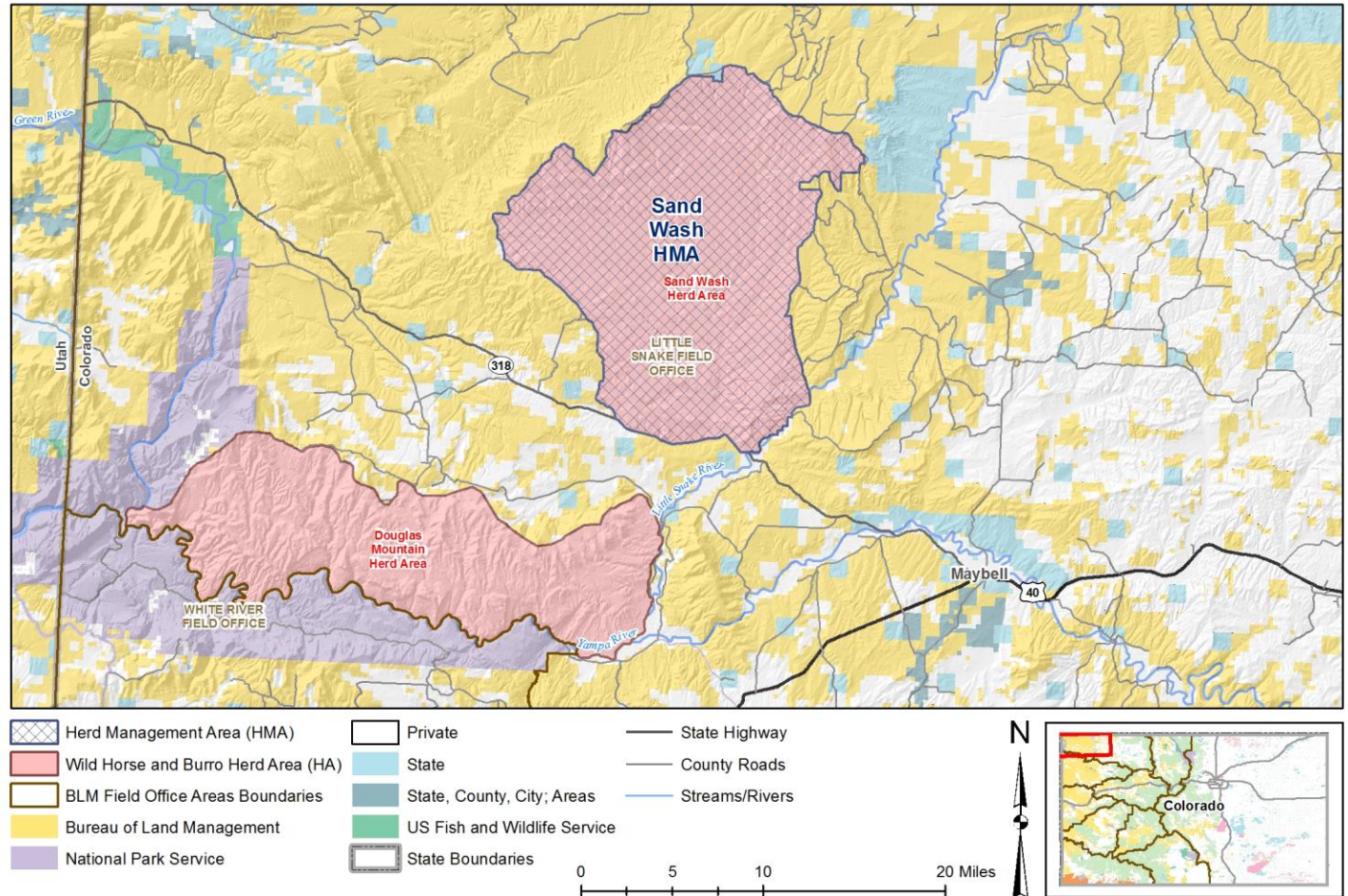
- WD- 127,649 Acres
- AML 0
- Estimated WD Population- 254
- Decisions dating from 1975 to remove all horses from WD



Sand Wash Basin

- SWB- 157,730 Acres.
- AML 163-362.
- Estimated population
 - 599
- Partnerships
 - GEMS/SWAT
 - Goals
 - Projects completed
 - Wild Horse Warriors for Sand Wash Basin
 - Goals
 - Projects completed
- Over 6,000 volunteer hours in 2018

BLM Colorado Sand Wash Basin Herd Management Area



NW Colorado Wild Horse Updates

- LSFO

- Continue to work with two partners in SWB
- On Range-
 - Continue to treat with fertility control, PZP.
 - Treated over 200 mares this FY
 - Began hauling water in July and ended in October
 - Installed one well pump that had went out
 - Installed additional water capacity at Lake Draw
- Off Range-
 - Public outreach, communication, and education
 - Broad forums, like PBS production

- WRFO

- Established partner group Piceance Mustangs
- On Range
 - Have had monthly work days since may
 - Multitude of projects. Mostly fence and one water project completed
 - Exploring options to actively manage horses
- Off Range-
 - Public education, communication, and outreach
 - Attended events like the Meeker Sheep Dog trials and other events

We also have active programs with 4H and MHF to adopt horses. Gather requests have been and are being submitted for all areas in NW Colorado.

Management of Horses in Colorado

- **Challenges for Managing WH in Colorado**
 - On a national scale, Colorado HMA's are overall doing ok.
 - Hard to compete with larger problems nationally, including impacts to sage grouse, public safety, and court orders.
 - Still very contentious nationally.
 - Locally-
 - Colorado HMA's can be very difficult to gather due to topography and vegetation
 - Good local support for some gathering/methods
- **Challenges should not impede efforts to manage.**



The BLM Wild Horse and Burro Program

Congress directed the Bureau of Land Management and U.S. Forest Service in 1971 to manage and protect America's wild horses and burros as part of a **thriving natural ecological balance** on public lands.



The Challenge

Since receiving federal protection, the wild horse and burro population on the public lands has soared, affecting the ecological balance.

25,000 wild horses and burros lived on public lands in 1971

27,000 wild horses and burros can live in balance with wildlife and livestock on healthy public lands

82,000 wild horses and burros live on public lands in 2018

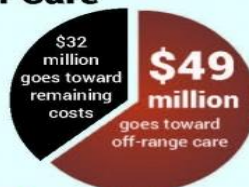
Adoption and Sales Program



Cost of Care

46,000

Wild horses and burros in off-range facilities



The BLM spends nearly 2/3 of the wild horse and burro program's annual budget to care for unadopted and unsold animals, leaving few funds for on-range management and care.



Questions?

**For More
Information:
1-866-468-7826 /
www.blm.gov**

