

## PUBLIC INVOLVEMENT

STAY CONNECTED WITH THE  
BLM NEVADA!

LEARN MORE AT  
[www.blm.gov/nv](http://www.blm.gov/nv)

FOLLOW US ON  
Twitter @BLMNV

FIND US AT  
[Facebook.com/BLMNevada](https://www.facebook.com/BLMNevada)

# GO WILD HORSE AND BURRO WATCHING!

BLM  
Nevada

THE SIGHT OF A WILD HORSE, HEAD HELD HIGH, EARS ALERT, LONG MANE SPILLING OVER FOREHEAD AND NECK, IS THRILLING TO SEE. THE MAJESTY, WILDNESS AND WARINESS OF THESE ANIMALS STIR EMOTIONS AND, IN ONE'S HEART, THERE IS A KNOWING THAT THESE ANIMALS BELONG IN THE LANDSCAPE OF THE WEST.



## FEDERAL MANAGEMENT

Nevada is the Silver State, but could also be called the Wild Horse and Burro State since about half of the nation's wild horses and wild burros free-roam on public lands primarily managed by the Bureau of Land Management, Nevada. The places where most of the wild horses and burros are found are identified as herd management areas, or HMAs. The HMAs highlighted in this brochure offer good chances of seeing these animals. They move with the seasons seeking food and water so they will be found in different parts of the HMAs throughout the year.

## VIEWING AND SAFETY - WHAT TO BRING:

- Binoculars
- Camera
- Sturdy shoes
- Plenty of food and water
- Sunscreen
- Warm clothing or layers
- Bug spray
- Hat
- Durable tires and a spare tire
- Full tank of gas
- Coverage can be unreliable



**PLEASE DON'T APPROACH WILD HORSES OR BURROS.**

It is against Federal law to harass or remove a wild horse or burro from public land.

Nevada State Law makes it illegal to camp within 300 feet of a spring or water hole as this will prevent animals from approaching these life-giving sources.

DESIGN BY: MESHCREATIVE [WWW.MESHCREATIVE.COM](http://WWW.MESHCREATIVE.COM)

PHOTOS BY: PHILLIP ADAMS, NEVADA WILDS PHOTOGRAPHY  
AND JOHN AXTELL, BLM NEVADA

BLM/NV/NV/GI/13-13+1800





# COLORS AND PATTERNS

Seeing the variety of colors and markings is one of the interesting things to do while watching wild horses and burros as you travel around Nevada!

Predominant colors of wild horses are sorrels, bays and browns, but there are many variations of colors throughout Nevada's HMAs.

## WILD HORSES

**Appaloosa:** Colorful spotted or roan coat patterns, striped hooves, and mottled or spotted skin.

**Bay:** Red or brown with black points.

**Black:** Solid black, including points.

**Blue Roan:** Mixture of white and black hairs on the body, and darker on head and lower legs.

**Brown:** Body is brown or black with light areas around muzzle, eyes, flank, and inside upper legs, with black points.

**Buckskin:** Tan with black points.

**Dun:** Red, brown or tan with a dorsal stripe and possible striping on the legs.

**Gray:** Can vary from almost white to almost black. Gray horses tend to lighten up as they age or change color yearly.

**Grullo:** The term is Spanish for mouse colored. Smokey gray with a dorsal stripe and black points.

**Palomino:** Golden yellow with white mane and tail.

**Pinto:** Large solid patches of white and another body color.

**Red Roan:** Mixture of white with red hairs, red on head and lower legs, red or flaxen mane and/or tail.

**Sorrel:** Most are entirely reddish in color.

**White:** Various shades from bright white to pale tan.

## WILD BURROS

**Gray:** Various shades of gray with white muzzle. Most have a visible dorsal stripe and lines down their withers/shoulders that form a cross pattern.

**Pinto:** Large solid patches of white and another body color.

**Black:** Black, usually with white muzzle, eyes and ears.

**Maltese:** Rare color pattern of solid black, brown or gray, including the muzzle.

**Pink:** Usually a roan pattern of reddish pink with white.



## MARKINGS TO LOOK FOR

### DORSAL STRIPE

A stripe down the animal's backbone.

### POINTS

Legs from knees down, mane and tail.

## WHAT IS A WILD HORSE?

Nevada's wild horses and burros were brought here by miners, ranchers, missionaries, and others. These wild animals now reflect the many colors, sizes and ancestral breeds brought here during the settlement of the West. You might see rare Curly horses with their curly rings of hair all over their bodies—as well as curly eyelashes, kinky manes and tails and curly hair in their ears. Another interesting aspect of these animals is that—like the poodles of the dog world—they are hypoallergenic!

## WHAT IS A BURRO?

Burros grow to be about half the size of a horse. Males are called jacks, and females are called jennies. The differences between horses and burros are easy to see and hear. Burros have longer ears and shorter manes and tails and they bray instead of whinny.

Most burros, regardless of coat color, will have dorsal stripes and shoulder crosses, dark ear marks, as well as light points of white muzzle and eye rings, and white belly and inner legs.

## WHAT IS A BAND?

Wild horses and burros form small bands or family groups consisting of a dominant stallion, a lead mare, other mares and their young. When young males are about two years old and weaned, they are forced to leave the band. These adolescent studs join bachelor bands with other males.

By watching a band of wild horses closely, you may be able to identify the lead mare, the dominant stallion, or a bachelor band.



## ELY DISTRICT 775.289.1800

### 1 PANCAKE HERD MANAGEMENT AREA 44

This is one of the remaining areas where horses with Curly characteristics can still be seen in the wild. These horses are primarily descendants of mining stock, with influences from local ranch horses, sheepherders' horses and Calvary remounts. The herd derives its name from the Pancake Mountain Range that runs through the middle of the HMA.

How to get there:

- From Ely, drive west on U.S. Highway 50 over Little Antelope Summit. At the base of the summit on the west side take the Belmont/Green Springs turnoff south off of U.S. Highway 50. Once leaving the highway, visitors are within the Herd Management Area. This road runs down the eastern portion of the HMA moving into the center. Following this road south, it leads to U.S. Highway 6, about 60 miles southwest of Ely.

### 2 SILVER KING HERD MANAGEMENT AREA 44

The wild horses here are descendants of ranch stock, miners, Calvary remounts and settlers in the area. The herd derives its name from the Silver King Mining District of the late 1800s.

How to get there:

- From Ely, drive south about 68 miles on U.S. Highway 93 to Mule Shoe turnoff. Stay on the main road for about 11 miles, which leads into the HMA.
- From Caliente, drive north about 38 miles on U.S. Highway 93 to the Bristle Wells turnoff. As soon as you leave the highway you are within the HMA.

## ELKO DISTRICT 775.753.0200

### 3 ANTELOPE VALLEY HERD MANAGEMENT AREA 44

This herd is comprised of ranching horses that were turned out for better breeding. The wild horses are descendants of horses used by homesteaders, ranchers and miners. There is some evidence that the Army Remount Service was active in at least part of the area during the early 1900s to the early 1940s.

How to get there:

- From Interstate 80, exit at West Wendover to the Alternate 93. Take Alternate 93 South to the Kinsley Mountain turnoff and head east.

**What to know before you go:** Roads are very dusty in the summertime and muddy and rutted in the fall and spring. Wintertime brings snow to northeastern Nevada and winter tires or chains are suggested.

### 4 SPRUCE-PEQUOP HERD MANAGEMENT AREA 44

This herd is comprised of ranching horses that were turned out for better breeding. The wild horses are descendants of horses used by homesteaders, ranchers and miners. There is some evidence that the Army Remount Service was active in at least part of the area during the early 1900s to the early 1940s.

How to get there:

- From Interstate 80, take the Highway 93 exit toward Ely. Approximately 40 miles south, turn into the Goshute Valley turnoff and head east.

**What to know before you go:** Roads are very dusty in the summertime and muddy and rutted in the fall and spring. Wintertime brings snow to Northeastern Nevada and winter tires or chains are suggested.

## WINNEMUCCA DISTRICT 775.623.1500

### 5 7 TROUGHS RANGE HERD MANAGEMENT AREA/PORTER SPRINGS 44

Horses within the HMA are descendants of ranch horses that either escaped or were released into the area. Burros within the HMA are descendants of pack animals used by miners and sheep ranchers. Porter Springs was a base camp for early miners of this area. The area around Porter Springs will allow a great opportunity to see some spectacular pinto-colored burros in June through late fall.

How to get there:

- From Interstate 80, travel to Lovelock. Take exit 106 to downtown Lovelock. Stay on Main Street toward City Hall, then turn right onto Central Ave. Travel 1.8 miles to Pitt Road, NV399. Turn left onto NV399. Travel about 12 miles, then take the Seven Troughs Road (this is a gravel road). After about 6 miles, look for the Seven Troughs/Vernon/Porter Springs Road and turn left. After the left turn, stay on the main road, traveling over the Seven Troughs Range. Once on the west side of the range, Porter Springs will be on the right side of the road before the flats.

**What to know before you go:** Once at Porter Springs, there are different roads that lead to Fernley, Winnemucca or Pyramid Lake. These main gravel roads in Pershing County are well maintained.

### 6 MCGEE MOUNTAIN BURRO HERD MANAGEMENT AREA 44

Burros within the HMA are the descendants of pack animals used by miners and sheep ranchers.

How to get there:

- From US-95 north out of Winnemucca, drive about 30 miles. Turn left at NV-140 and drive 65 miles. Turn left at Denio Junction to stay on NV-140 and drive 9.3 miles. Turn left on Knott Creek Road. The McGee Mountain HMA is the mountain on the right (west). From Knott Creek Road, burros can be seen on both sides of the road for the next seven miles.

**What to know before you go:** All roads mentioned are state and county roads, but flat tires are common, so 10-ply tires are recommended. The McGee Mountain HMA for burros is bordered on the north and west by the Sheldon National Wildlife Refuge, administered by the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service.



### 7 JACKSON MOUNTAINS HERD MANAGEMENT AREA 44

Horses within the HMA are descendants of ranch horses that either escaped or were released into the area.

How to get there:

- From US-95 north out of Winnemucca, drive about 30 miles. Turn left at NV-140 and drive about 35 miles. Turn left at Leonard Creek Road and drive about 8 miles. At the Y in the road, take the slight left towards Jackson Creek Ranch Road. Horses can be seen anywhere along Jackson Creek Ranch Road for the next 47 miles where it runs into Jungo Road. If travelers take a left onto Jungo Road then they will end up back in Winnemucca. Travelers are most likely to see horses when they first turn off Leonard Creek Road onto Jackson Creek Ranch Road, and where Jackson Creek Ranch Road meets Jungo Road.

**What to know before you go:** There is a public rest stop at the turn-off onto Leonard Creek Road. The nearest towns are Orovada (48 miles from the HMA) and Winnemucca (67 miles from the HMA).

## CARSON CITY DISTRICT 775.885.6000

### 8 MARIETTA NATIONAL BURRO RANGE

Marietta is the nation's first formally recognized Wild Burro Range. This designation means the area may be managed principally, but not necessarily exclusively, for wild burros. One reason for the designation is the unique opportunity available for public viewing of the herd and its habitat. The burros roam freely near the ruins of the historic Nevada mining town of Marietta and the seasonally changing Teels Marsh. The Marietta Wild Burro Range was publicly dedicated in 1991—the 20th anniversary of the passage of the Wild Free-Roaming Horses and Burros Act.

How to get there:

- Travel south from Hawthorne on U.S. Highway 95. Turn southwest onto State Route 360 towards Benton, California. Then turn west onto the maintained dirt county road to Marietta. It will take just over an hour to drive the 55 miles to the turnoff to Marietta from Hawthorne.
- Traveling north on Highway 95/ Highway 6 from Tonopah: take Highway 6 west to the 360 turnoff. Continue north to the Marietta turnoff.

**What to know before you go:** Marietta is an old mining district, so use caution as there are open mine shafts, shaky buildings, unstable rock ruins and rattlesnakes are common. Some of the property in Marietta is private, so visitors need to respect the residents and their property.

### 9 PINE NUT HERD MANAGEMENT AREA

Located in the Pine Nut Mountain Range of Lyon, Douglas and Carson counties about five miles east of Carson City, this HMA encompasses approximately 90,000 acres. The horses generally stand 13 to 14 hands tall (52 to 56 inches measured from the ground to the top of their withers). It is generally accepted that these horses originated from escaped ranch stock and a Shetland pony stud horse which accounts for their generally small size and stubborn nature.

How to get there:

- From U.S. Highway 50 in Dayton, go east on Dayton Valley Road about four miles to its intersection/end at Bullion Road. This is on the south side of a residential area with large acre-sized lots with a view of public lands to the south of the barbed wire fence along the south side of Dayton Valley Road. Horses are sometimes visible against the hills to the east and south.

**What to know before you go:** Due to the close proximity to Carson City and Dayton, horses can sometimes be seen from paved roads. The recommended observation point is at the far eastern end of Dayton Valley Road.

## BATTLE MOUNTAIN DISTRICT 775.635.4000

### 10 STONE CABIN HERD MANAGEMENT AREA

Wild horses in this HMA can have a special "Stone Cabin Gray" color. Stone Cabin Grays are thought to be offspring of a prized gray thoroughbred that the famous gunfighter Jack Longstreet turned loose in the valley. Stone Cabin Grays are distinctive because they are born dark, almost black, and then lighten up with age to be nearly completely gray or white. These grays mixed with fine thoroughbred stock from the grandfather of the current Stone Cabin rancher to produce some great horses.

How to get there:

- The Stone Cabin HMA is located approximately 28 miles east of Tonopah in Nye County, east of the Salsbury Summit on Highway 6.

**What to know before you go:** Once in Stone Cabin Valley, wild horses usually can be observed in the valley on the north or south side of the highway, and oftentimes from the highway. Exploration throughout the valley will likely produce numerous sightings of wild horses grazing or traveling from feeding areas to water, particularly on the east side of the valley near Clifford Mine. The gravel roads are maintained and usually in good condition depending on recent weather activity.

### 11 BULLFROG BURRO HERD MANAGEMENT AREA

Burros were brought to the area by local settlers. They were used by mining prospectors for carrying loads and riding.

How to get there:

- The Bullfrog HMA surrounds the town of Beatty. The best possible place to view burros outside Beatty is along the Amargosa River in the morning and late evening. From Beatty, travel north on U.S. Highway 95 for 5-10 miles.

**What to know before you go:** These burros are locally known as the "Beatty burros" and can be seen around town. The gravel roads are in fair to improved condition; however, high-clearance vehicles are recommended.

### 12 FISH CREEK HERD MANAGEMENT AREA

Though rare, Curly horses are known to exist within this HMA, and since the mid-1990s, the HMA has been touted as the "Home of the Curly Horse." According to the book "The Dameles and the American Curly Horse" by Dale E. Wooley, Tom Dixon was one of the largest horse breeders in the Eureka area, owning more than 10,000 horses. He is said to have brought back three Curly horses from a horse trader in Delhi in early 1874 that were reported to have been from Russia. One of these horses was released to the north in the Buckskin Mine area, located between Kelly Creek and Birch Creek in the vicinity of Pete Hanson Canyon. Another was released in White Pine County. The following year, young Curly horses were seen in both regions and were later seen in Fish Creek Valley.

How to get there:

- From Eureka, drive about 15 miles west of Eureka on U.S. Highway 50. Once past Roberts Mountain Road on the right, travel one more mile and turn left onto the gravel road. Follow this gravel road south into Antelope Valley and watch for wild horses to the left in the foothills. Continuing south will take you into the Sevenmile HMA, then farther south into the Little Fish Lake HMA, Stone Cabin HMA and finally Highway 6, east of Tonopah.

**What to know before you go:** Gravel roads are in fair to improved condition.

### 13 HICKISON BURRO HERD MANAGEMENT AREA

Burros were brought to the area by local settlers. They were used by mining prospectors for carrying loads and riding. Spencer Hot Springs are a notable feature in the area that has been developed by locals and other visitors for its use. The burros sometimes use the overflow of the springs, and their tracks can be observed in the area.

How to get there:

- The HMA is located 20 miles east of Austin. Travel east of Austin on U.S. Highway 50 to the junction with Highway 376 to the south. Turn right and travel approximately one-quarter of a mile to a well-traveled gravel road on the left. Follow this road about six miles, and either turn left, right or continue on into the foothills to view the burros.

**What to know before you go:** The burros have three sources of water: Joe's Well, Burro Well and the Spencer Hot Springs. All three of the water sources are located in close proximity to each other, and this is a great area to see them. The gravel roads are in fair to improved condition.

### 14 DIAMOND HERD MANAGEMENT AREA

Early settlers of the Eureka area were involved with ranching, mining, wood cutting and coal production. Horses were an integral part of everyday life as the settlers established homesteads in the area. The horses here today are descendants of these horses, which escaped or were released once motorized vehicles came into wide existence in the area.

How to get there:

- Travel north of Eureka on Highway 278 approximately 17 miles to Sadler Brown Road, which veers off to the east (right). Follow this road approximately four miles to a main gravel road crossing the valley to the east. Take this road across the valley to the Diamond Mountain Range approximately 12 miles to the gravel road that travels along the foothills of the mountain.

**What to know before you go:** Gravel roads are in fair to improved condition.

## SOUTHERN NEVADA DISTRICT 702.515.5000

### 15 RED ROCK HERD MANAGEMENT AREA

The Red Rock HMA is home to several groups of wild burros and horses. The local population originated from animals that escaped or were abandoned by settlers coming to the Las Vegas valley, ranchers, prospectors that originally mined in this region and Native American tribes.

How to get there:

- From Las Vegas, take Charleston Blvd. west until you reach State Route 159. State Route 159 will make a loop through a portion of the HMA and take travelers back into Las Vegas on State Route 160 (Blue Diamond Road).

**What to know before you go:** The wild horses primarily live south of State Route 160. The majority of the wild burros live north of the highway. One of the best places in Red Rock Canyon to look for the wild burros is between Spring Mountain Ranch State Park and the small community of Blue Diamond on SR-159 where they frequently water at the springs north of town and graze by the road.

### 16 WHEELER PASS HERD MANAGEMENT AREA 44

These wild horses originated from animals that escaped or were abandoned by settlers coming to the Las Vegas valley, ranchers, prospectors that originally mined in this region and Native American tribes. Do not be surprised to see mares with freemarks on their left hip or left shoulder. These mares were treated with a fertility control vaccine. The fertility control vaccine is intended to slow the population growth and does not harm the wild horses or their foals.

How to get there:

- One of the best places to see wild horses is near Cold Creek, a small community about 45 minutes north of Las Vegas. From the northwest side of Las Vegas, take U.S. 95 north about 20 miles, then turn left on State Route 172 (Cold Creek Rd.). Travel about 13 miles, and the paved road ends at the Cold Creek community.

**What to know before you go:** Wild horses can be seen from about four miles out from Cold Creek. There are several springs, creeks and fire suppression ponds near Cold Creek that supply water to the wild horses and wildlife in the area. Cold Creek lies within the Wheeler Pass HMA and the Spring Mountain Wild Horse Territory (WHT). The BLM manages the HMAs, while the U.S. Forest Service manages the WHTs and the horses migrate back and forth in that area.

44 4WD VEHICLE STRONGLY RECOMMENDED