

## Wild horses by the numbers

<b>National population</b>			
Wild horses on public land		33,692	
Wild burros on public land		4,673	
Total wild horses and burros		38,365	
AML for all public land		26,582	
Over AML		11,783	
Captive horses in short-term holding		8,800	
Captive horses in long-term holding		25,700	
Total captive horses		34,500	
<b>Nevada population</b>			
Wild horses on public lands		17,711	
Wild burros on public lands		1,177	
Total		18,888	
Per cent of national population		49%	
AML		12,688	
Over AML		6,200	
<b>Elko County population</b> (HMAs Administered by Elko BLM Office) (Horses only) (Fiscal Year 2009)	Population	AML (Low/high)	Over/ under high AML
Antelope Valley	**1,003	155/259	744
Diamond Hills North	123	37	86
Goshute	**585	74/123	462
Little Humboldt	*46	48/80	-34
Maverick-Medicine	675	166/276	399
Owyhee	*112	139/231	-119
Rock Creek	*47	150/250	-203
Spruce-Pequop	**578	48/82	496
Total	3,169	817/1,338	1,831
Per cent of state population	18%		
* From recent gather report			
** From EA on planned gathers			

Population numbers for wild horses.

Finding accurate and current population numbers is not easy, but they reveal some interesting facts. As of fiscal year 2010, more “wild” horses live in short and long term holding facilities than live in the wild. The nation’s wild horse and burro AML (see below for a definition) shows we have 11,783 more horses and burros on public lands than BLM guidelines say should be there. Nevada contains almost half of the nation’s wild horses and a third of those are excess.

As of Fiscal Year 2009, Elko County contains 18% of Nevada’s wild horses and our horse population is 1,800 horses above what it should be. Of Elko County’s eight HMAs, only three have fewer horses than the upper AML and those three HMAs were gathered last summer. The three HMAs scheduled for gather next month have the most excess horses but will soon be reduced dramatically.

Herd Management Area (HMA): Public land administered by the BLM for its herd of wild horses.

Appropriate Management Level (AML): The BLM evaluates each HMA to determine how much forage is available for use. The available forage is then allocated among wildlife, wild horses, burros and domestic livestock. The number of horses and burros which can graze without causing damage to the range is called the AML.

Gathers in Elko County: Owyhee, Rock Creek and Little Humboldt HMAs were gathered during the summer of 2011. Antelope Valley, Goshute and Spruce-Pequeops HMAs are scheduled for gather during January and February of 2011.

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