

Utah Wild Horse Herd Management Areas

Sulphur Herd Management Area

Contact:

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[Sulphur Map](#)

The Sulphur Herd roams a vast, unpopulated region of alternating high desert basins and expansive mountain ranges. Their home, the Needle Range, is a starkly beautiful mountain block that lies about 45 miles west of Milford, Utah, along the Nevada State line. In some spots, the range rises to nearly 10,000 feet in elevation. From north to south, the mountainous spine of the Needle Range is comprised of two main peaks--Mountain Home and Indian Peaks.

In the mountain peaks and sloping lowlands of the Needle Mountain Range roams a nationally recognized herd of wild horses with a Utah heritage much older than most of ours. These horses draw their bloodlines from the old Spanish Type, the first horses brought to America by the Spanish explorers in the late 1500s. Through time, the Sulphur Herd has bred with escaped ranch livestock, but most still hold many of the Spanish Barb traits. There are only three other wild horse herd areas in the United States which exhibit a high concentration of Spanish characteristics.

The original Colonial Spanish Type horse displayed some characteristics of the extinct wild tarpan horse. Horses of the Sulphur herd exhibit many of those early traits.

Dominant colors include dun, buckskin, and grulla (a grey or mouse color). Other colors found throughout the region include bay, black, sorrel, palomino, and various roan's (blue, red, strawberry, etc.). Physical characteristics include ears that curve in like a bird's beak, dorsal stripe, bi-colored mane and tail, tiger-striped legs, and occasional chest barring. Additional features might include a sloping croup, low-set tail, deep body, narrow chest, broad forehead, but narrow face and muzzle from a frontal view.

[Sulphur Herd Objectives](#)

Strive to maintain an ecological balance through dispersal of wild horses within the habitat and the removal of excess horses beyond the carrying capacity of the range.

Make excess wild horses available for public adoption

Maintain a herd size of 135 to 180 head of adult horses above two years of age.

Through natural breeding, increase the number of horses displaying good conformation, color, or characteristics of the original Colonial Spanish Type horse.

Keep the current wild horse population as pure as possible with no introduction of outside animals into the herd area..

Develop viewing opportunities visitors to observe wild horses in a natural setting.

[We Need Your Help](#)

We invite you to view wild horses, however it is unlawful to chase and/or catch them. Foals, pregnant mares and older horses are easily hurt when pursued, so please allow them to live a free and unharassed life.

Help our wild horses by reporting illegal activity. Contact your BLM office or call BLM Law Enforcement at (801) 539-4286.

[Best Opportunity for Viewing](#)

The Needle Range is characterized by steep slopes and narrow ridges. Access to the ridges and surrounding area is good, provided you are driving a vehicle capable of traversing rough, back country roads.

You will find most of the horses in the Mountain Home portion of the range. An extensive dirt-road

system provides access throughout the entire area for those properly equipped. Typically, roads wander through sagebrush flats and forests of pinyon and juniper. The high country of Mountain Home Peak is a particularly pleasant destination, providing outstanding views of Hamlin Valley and Great Basin National Park.

The best access to the road network within the herd area is Utah Highway 21. Approximately 45 miles west of Milford on U-21 look for a BLM sign marked Pots Sum Pa. Turn south on this road to enter the northeastern portion of the Sulphur Herd Management Area.

A Few Viewing Tips

Look in certain areas. Scan reseeding project and prescribed burns where forage is plentiful. Look for wild horses from high elevations. Mountain Home Peak provides an excellent vantage point to look for wild horses.

Adapt your viewing strategy to the time of year you visit. Horses migrate to higher elevations during the warm summer months. In late fall and spring they can be found on the benches of Hamlin and Pine Valleys.

Take binoculars. Wild horses are naturally wary and best viewed at a distance. When approached, they will spook and run for cover.

Special Travel Conditions

Take along a good map. Detailed topographic maps provide the best information about roads and topographic features in this area. The extensive road system in this area can be difficult to decipher unless you have a good map and the ability to navigate with it.

Four-wheel drive and high clearance vehicles are recommended. Seasonal rains and snow will make the road in the management area muddy, slick, rutted, and impassable.

Come prepared. Make certain that you and your vehicle are properly equipped for a back country adventure. Adequate gasoline, extra water, tire chains, tools to make repairs, a first aid kit, and making sure that someone at home knows where you are and when you are expected back are just a few of the basic precautions you should take whenever traveling in a remote area.

BLM Herd Management Areas

In 1971, Congress passed legislation to protect, manage, and control wild horses and burros on the public lands. The Wild Free-Roaming Horse and Burro Act declared these animals to be "living symbols of the historic and pioneer spirit of the West."

Congress further declared that "wild free-roaming horses and burros shall be protected from capture, branding, harassment, or death..." and that they are "...an integral part of the natural system of the public lands." Furthermore, Bureau regulation requires that wild horses and burros be considered comparably with other resource values within the area.

The Bureau of Land Management maintains and manages wild horses or burros in "herd management areas" (HMAs).

In the ten states where BLM manages horses, there are 270 herd areas. In Utah, about 3,600 horses are found among 23 different herds scattered across the state. Two herds of burros containing about 100 animals are found on public lands in southeastern Utah.

Management Objectives

A management objective for the herd area is to ensure proper utilization of the area by wild horses at a level sufficient to guarantee their continued existence without exceeding the overall carrying capacity for all animals--livestock, wildlife and horses.

Another objective is to develop a recreation and viewing area for the public to observe wild horses in a natural setting.

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