



Goshute Herd Management Area Elko County, Nevada



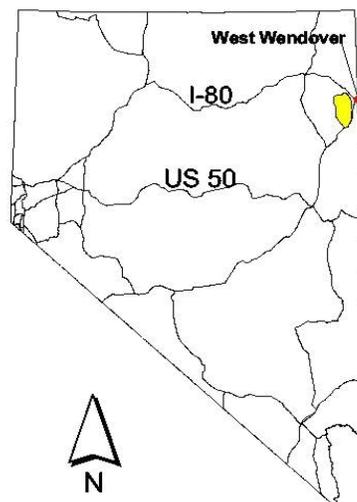
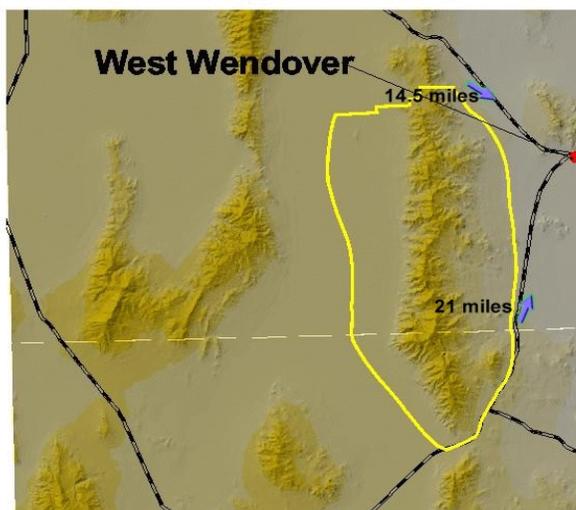
Location/Habitat

The Goshute Herd Management Area (HMA) is located approximately 5 miles southwest of West Wendover, Nevada. The area is 250,000 acres in size and is 35 miles long by 18 miles wide. Geology in the HMA is characteristic of that found throughout Nevada, north-south trending mountain ranges separated by wide valley bottoms. The highest elevation in the HMA is Goshute Peak at 9,666 feet in elevation and the lowest points are found in the valley bottoms and range at 4,000 feet. Average precipitation is approximately 7 inches on the valley bottoms and from 16 to 18 inches on the mountain peaks. Most of the rainfall occurs during the winter months when the plants are dormant; this creates the cold-temperate desert of which Goshute HMA is a part. Temperatures can be extreme. They range from a high of over 100 degrees Fahrenheit in the summer months to a low of 15 degrees below zero in the winter.

Wild horses must share their habitat in the Goshute HMA with domestic livestock and wildlife species such as mule deer and pronghorn antelope.

Vegetation

The HMA supports vegetation typical of the Great Basin region which is sagebrush and rabbitbrush mixed in with many species of native grasses such as Indian ricegrass, squirreltail and bluebunch wheatgrass. The higher elevations support pinyon-pine and juniper forests. At the highest elevations fir trees are abundant.



Herd Description

The predominate colors among the Goshute horses are: sorrel, bay, buckskin, black, brown, dun, chestnut, palomino, roan, grulla, gray/white. The horses are of average height and weight for wild horses.

A man by the name of Gilbert McCauley claimed many of the horses in the Goshute Mountains during the claiming period (1974-1978) which began after the Wild and Free-Roaming Horse and Burro Act was passed. McCauley attempted to gather his horses using water traps and was successful on a limited basis. McCauley seemed partial to palominos, buckskins, grays and whites, and today we still find evidence of these colors in the Goshute HMA.