



Waterfowl using Gerber potholes near Gerber Reservoir.

Wild Horse Management

The Klamath Falls Resource Area has one wild horse herd; the Pokegama Herd Management Area (HMA). The HMA is located in the western portion of the resource area, west and north of the Klamath River Canyon, south of Highway 66 and generally east of Jenny Creek. The appropriate management level of the herd is 30 (minimum) to 50 (maximum) animals. The district recently completed a capture plan and EA (#OR-010-95-10) for the HMA

and surrounding area. This plan documented wild horse numbers and population trends between 1972 and 1994, evaluated the effects of the increase in wild horse numbers, and ascertained that the removal of wild horses down to the 30 head minimum was necessary for resource reasons and because horses are outside their herd area on private lands. In addition, the Pokegama Herd Management Area is being evaluated (i.e. the vegetation and wild horse population monitoring information) as part of the Topsy-Pokegama Landscape Analysis effort in FY 96. This data will not be repeated here, but is available upon request. The herd is currently estimated to be between 60 to 75 head. As of July 1, 1996, 7 wild horses were removed from the herd area via bait trapping. Up to an additional 25 will be removed this FY. Additional trapping may be pursued in FY 97 to achieve the minimum appropriate management level (30 head). For further information, contact Bill Lindsey at 541-885-4140.

Range Management and Range Program Summary Update

The range management program administers livestock grazing activities on about 212,000 acres of land in Klamath County. Each year grazing licenses are issued authorizing animal unit months (AUMs) on 95 public land allotments. While a percentage of the grazing fees collected goes into the U.S. Treasury, most is returned to the county or district to be used for range improvement projects designed to benefit wildlife and watershed resources while improving conditions for livestock grazing. A number of projects have been recently completed or proposed for FY96. These are summarized in the following section. Existing projects, which include such things as waterholes, spring developments, and fences are monitored and maintained, as necessary.

A Range Program Summary (RPS) is published periodically to update the public on progress made in implementing the existing land use plan (Klamath Falls Resource Area Resource Management Plan and Record of Decision). The RPS typically includes information on the season of use and forage allocation by allotment. This was published in Klamath Falls Resource Area Resource Management Plan and Record of