



Ochoco Wild Horse
in Riparian Area,
outside Territory.

“Fargo”

1998 - 2020

OCHOCO WILD HORSE HERD MANAGEMENT PLAN
OBJECTIONS
Central Oregon Wild Horse Coalition

Appendix A

Statements of Don James, Dale McCallister james.mccallister

July 17, 2017

To whom it may concern:

I, Donald H. James, was the District Ranger of the Big Summit District on the Ochoco National Forest for the period 1961 to 1966.

During this time I estimate there were at least 75 wild horses located in the following areas:

Lookout Mountain to Round Mountain areas:	25
Howard Creek North to Indian Prairie:	15
East of Big Summit all the way to Rager District:	20
South of Big Summit Prairie:	<u>15</u>
Total Estimate	75

The elusive horses had freedom to travel the forest. Winter time drove the horses to lower elevations around Canyon Creek and Duncan Creek. Possible sites could have included Coyle Creek, Crystal Creek, Walton Lake areas. There was no management plan in place. The horses were generally in good condition with plenty of feed. Our policy at that time was to leave the horse population alone. 1961 also had 5 sheep bands. By 1966 they were replaced by cattle.

Sincerely,

Donald H James
13535 SW Umbarger Rd
Powell Butte, OR 97753

NOTARY:

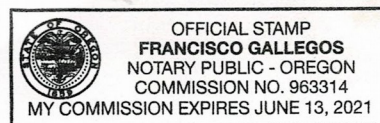
State of Oregon
County of Crook

Subscribed and sworn to me on this 17 day of July, 2017 by

Donald H James
Donald H James

Francisco Gallegos
Notary Public

Typed or Printed name Francisco Gallegos
My commission expires June 13, 2021



The history of the Ochoco wild horses from Dale W. McCallister who grew up in the area now known as Doughnut Creek, in the time frame of 1955 and before. When I was a kid, my dad was contacted by the supervisor of the Ochoco ranger district to hunt and shoot any wild horses he could find, and he would pay him \$10.00 per head. He refused to do so but he knew of others that did this for the Ochoco forest service and some in the Ashwood Dr. area. These Ochoco wild horses ranged back and

forth from the Ochoco National forest to BLM land and private land. This area included from Prineville south of hwy #26 to Mitchel then south to Paulina west to Post and on to the Prineville Reservoir and back to Prineville. The majority of these horses wintered on the south slopes in the lower elevations that are on BLM land and private land. Back at this time when ranchers gathered there cattle they left the gates open from forest land all the way down to

there private ranches. This was so any cattle they missed could migrate down as the snow deepened. The wild horses migrated down to lower elevations as the winter snows deepened also going thru these open gates to survive the winter.

When the wild horse protection act passed in the early 1970's the ranchers started closing the gates as they brought their cattle home in the fall of the year.

When the ranchers locked their gates because of the wild horse protection act, any horses on

There private land were not considered wild horses and they could use or dispose of them any way they wanted and not be regulated under the wild horse protection act that the U.S. forest service had to comply with. Any wild horses that ranged from U.S. forest land on to private land were under the protection of the U.S. forest service. This is the reason private land owners locked there gates. Prior to the wild horse protection act there were at least 250 to 300 head of

(5)

wild horses in this area.

When the wild horse protection act was enforced by the U.S.F.B. in the early 1970's they counted the wild horses in the winter that were on the U.S.F.B. land that had been allotted to the sheep and wild horses on an area of 27,000 Ac. in the Ochoco National Forest. At this time there were only about 55 to 65 head of horses in the area, the rest of the horses were behind locked gates on private land and not considered wild horses anymore so ranchers didn't have to contend

with the wild horse protection act or the United States forest service.

Prior to 1933 the government bought and distributed Thourbred and Morgan stallions to some of the ranchers in this area to turn out with the wild horses to upgrade these horses for remount horses for the calvary. The last roundup of wild horses in this area for remounts was at the Keystone ranch in the early 1930's. At this roundup they gathered about 400 head

to be sold for remounts or
sold to private parties for
their own use or for slaughter.
I think there is pictures and
information of this on record in
the Bowman Museum.

Prior to the wild horse protection
act many of the ranchers & their
hired hands and others trapped and
caught wild horses in their
spare time to break and train
for their own use or to sell
for extra money. I also did
this in the mid 1960's. I
have lived and hunted in this
area for 70+ years.

Some of the most common places to see the wild horses in the summer back in the 1960's and prior are listed here. Hamilton Butte, Coy Butte, Round Mt., Lookout Mt., Wolf creek basin, Grays prairie, Mt. Pisgah, Horse Heaven creek, Serow Butte, Little Summit Prairie, Upper Falls on the N. Fork of Crooked River, Lawn Spring, Line Butte, Keystone Ranch, Duncan Butte, and anywhere in between.