

Sand Wash

Herd Management Area

Little Snake Field Office • COLORADO



cover photo © Jerry Sintz

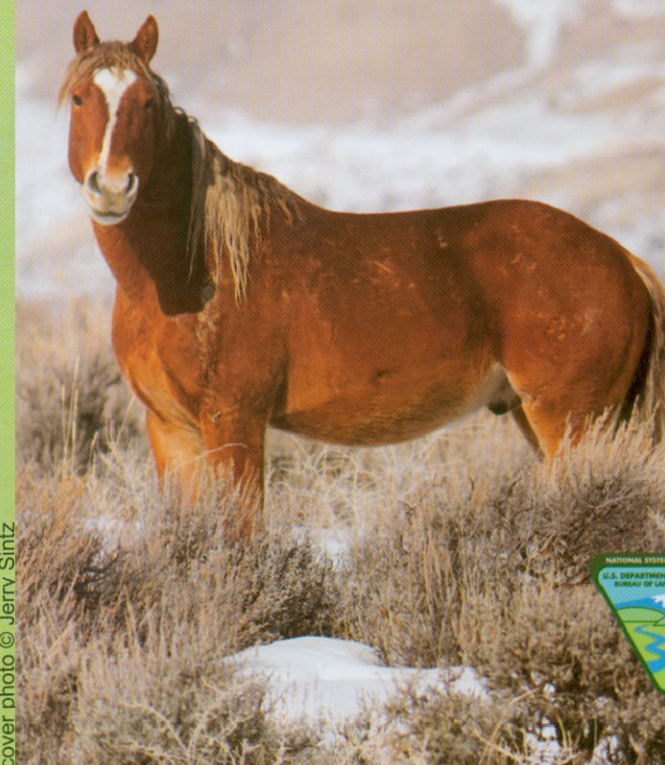


photo © Jerry Sintz

Visit With Respect

- Please be a good neighbor when traveling through this area, which is home to a wide variety of birds and other wildlife.
- Leave No Trace of your visit.
- For your safety and the safety of the wild horses, please keep a safe distance. If an animal's behavior changes noticeably, you are too close. Use binoculars, spotting scopes and telephoto lenses to get a better view.
- Water is a precious commodity in this dry landscape and is limited in both quantity and quality. Please do not camp within ¼ mile of water sources, or disturb the horses when they are drinking or headed to water.
- Leave cultural and historical objects as they are. Collecting is illegal.
- Motorized vehicle use in the area is limited to designated, maintained roads except for the open areas shown on the map.
- Many roads in this area require a high-clearance, four-wheel drive vehicle.
- Pets can increase stress on wildlife and wild horses, so please keep your pets under leash or voice control at all times.
- Don't try to touch or feed wild horses. Remember they are wild.
- Don't chase horses or behave in any way that might be seen as harassment; this is illegal.

Contact Information

Little Snake Field Office
455 Emerson Street
Craig, Colorado 81625
(970) 826-5000
www.blm.gov/co/st/en/fo/lsfo.html

National Wild Horse and Burro Program
(866) 468-7826
www.blm.gov/wo/st/en/prog/wild_horse_and_burro.html

Most of the wild horses removed from the range are made available for adoption. For more information, visit www.blm.gov/wo/st/en/prog/wild_horse_and_burro.html.

The Sand Wash Herd Management Area (HMA) in northwestern Colorado is one of four wild horse herd management areas in the state. The Little Snake Field Office manages the area in the BLM's Northwest District. Wild horses are an important part of the field office and the BLM is committed to maintaining a healthy wild horse herd in this area as part of our multiple-use mission.

Under the authority of the 1971 Wild Free-Roaming Horses and Burros Act, BLM manages, protects and controls wild horses and burros as part of its overall multiple-use mission. The bureau works to ensure that population levels are in balance with rangeland resources and other uses of the public lands. Wild horses have virtually no predators and can double in population about every four years if not managed. To keep up with this population growth, the BLM conducts a wild horse gather in Sand Wash about every four years. The original population of horses within the HMA in 1971 was 65 head. The BLM is currently managing for a range of between 163 to 362 wild horses. The horses in Sand Wash are well-known for their variety of colors, including unique paints, grays, red and blue roans, bays, sorrels and other color variations.

Herd Management Area Details

The 156,500-acre HMA is about 48 miles west of Craig, CO and is located between Vermillion Bluffs and Sevenmile Ridge in the Sand Wash Basin. Elevation within the HMA ranges from 5,800 feet to 8,125 feet. The Sand Wash Basin receives seven to 12 inches of annual precipitation, and the climate is typical of the cold deserts of the Rocky Mountain Region, with warm summers and very cold winters. Vegetation types within the HMA include sagebrush/bunchgrass, saltbush and pinyon-juniper woodlands.

Driving Directions

From Craig, follow U.S. Route 40 west for 30 miles to the town of Maybell, CO. From Maybell, turn north onto State Highway 318 for 18 miles to Moffat County Road 67 then turn north into the HMA and follow the Wild Horse Loop. This loop is highlighted on the map in red. A number of other county roads detailed on the map provide access throughout the HMA.

Observation Facts and Tips

Take along a pair of binoculars and scan the open areas from a high vantage point to spot wild horses

from a distance. A telephoto lens and wide-angle lens are recommended for your camera.

Best Season

Typically, wild horses are easily spotted in the open terrain of Sand Wash year round. Because the roads are not maintained, access can be difficult during winter or when wet and muddy conditions exist.

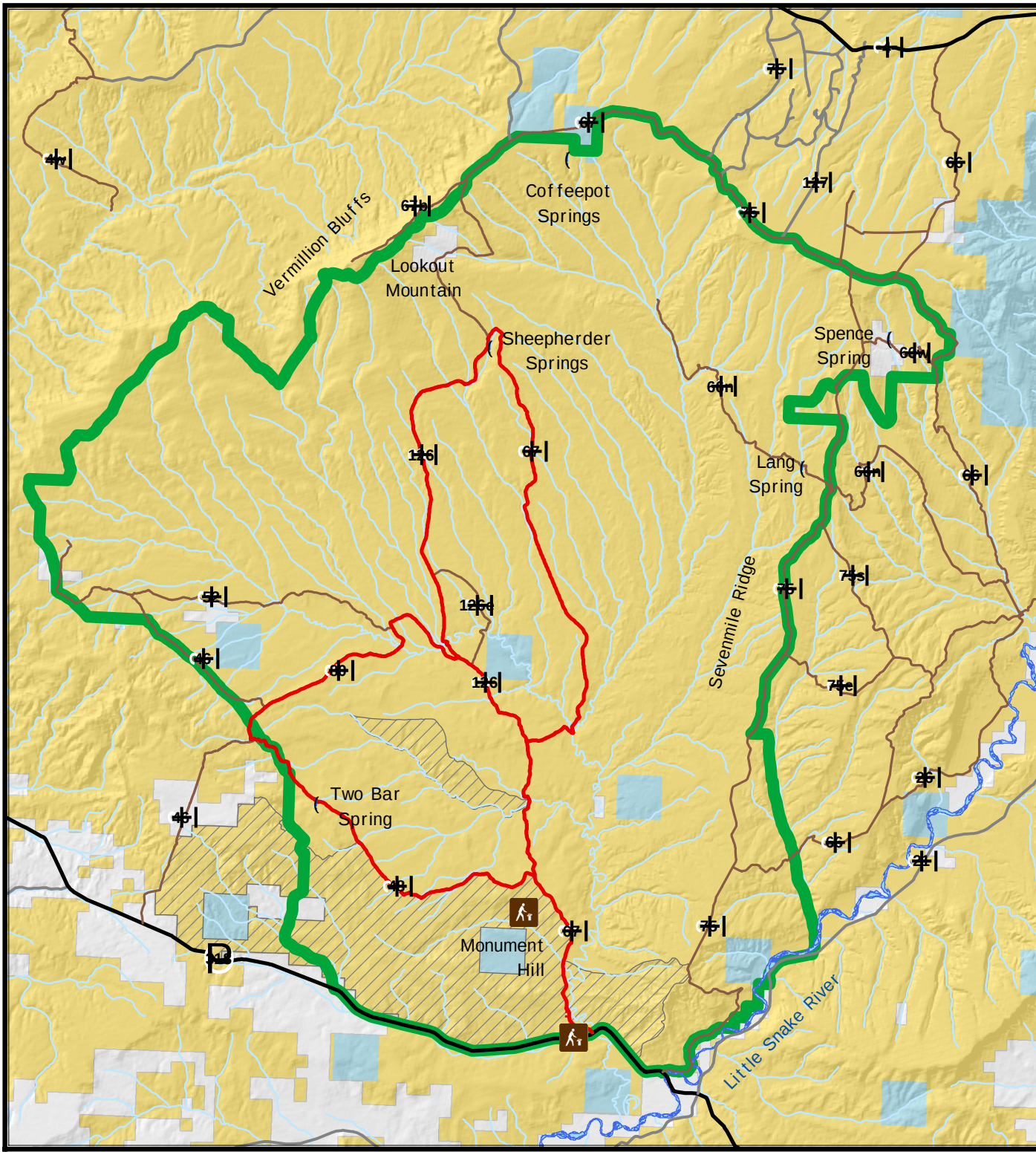
Best Chance

Wild horses are consistently seen along the Wild Horse Loop and on Sevenmile Ridge off Moffat County Road 75.

Best Travel

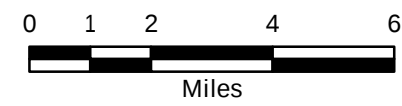
Most of the county roads within the HMA are packed gravel and dirt. A high-clearance, four-wheel drive vehicle is recommended for traveling in the HMA, but low-clearance, two-wheel drive vehicles can usually navigate these roads as well. Snow and summer thunderstorms can cause the clay roads to be difficult and impassable at times. Roads should not be traveled if inclement weather is predicted or present. Because the area is remote, public facilities are limited. The nearest facilities are located in Maybell.



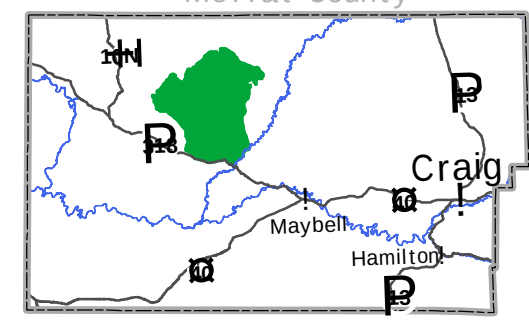


Sand Wash Herd Management Area

- Kiosk
- Sand Wash Corrals
- Springs
- Wild Horse Loop
- Roads**
 - Paved
 - Gravel
 - Dirt
- Sand Wash HMA
- Open Area
- Surface Management Status**
 - Private
 - State Land Board
 - Bureau of Land Management



Moffat County



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