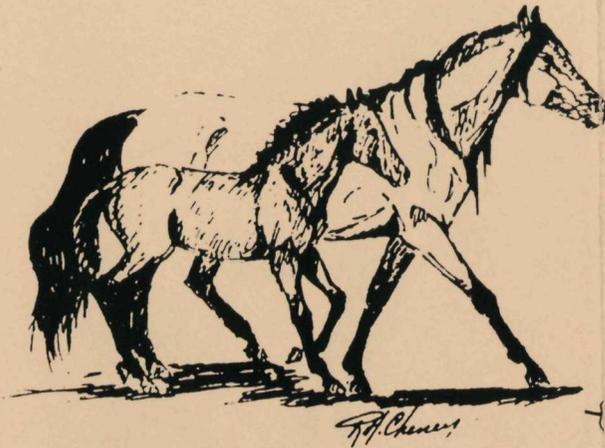


If you would like further information about wild horses and BLM's Adopt-A-Horse Program, write the Burns BLM District Office at HC 74-12533 Hwy. 20 West, Hines, Oregon 97738 or call (503) 573-5241. Vehicular access from the county road to the view point area is limited during wet weather to 4-wheel drive vehicles.

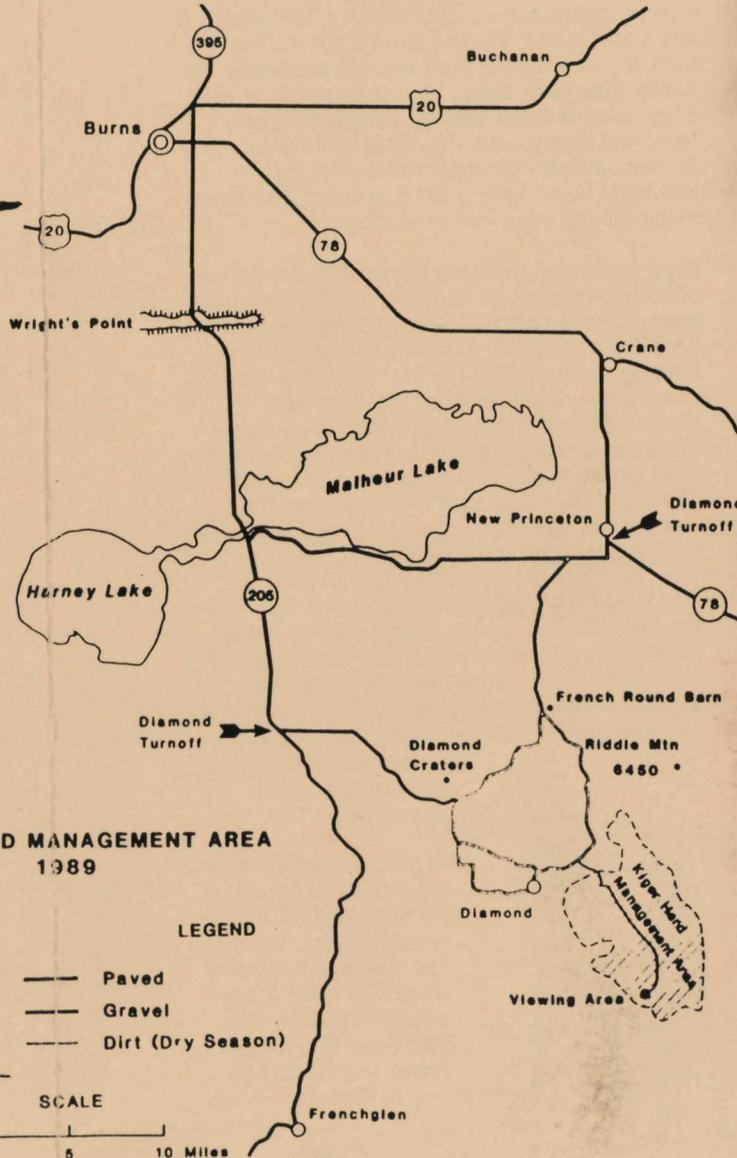


U.S. Department of the Interior
Bureau of Land Management

The Kiger Mustang



Seeing the beauty of the Kiger Mustangs in the wild with their classic coloration and markings will add much to your enjoyment of our western heritage and is an experience you won't soon forget!



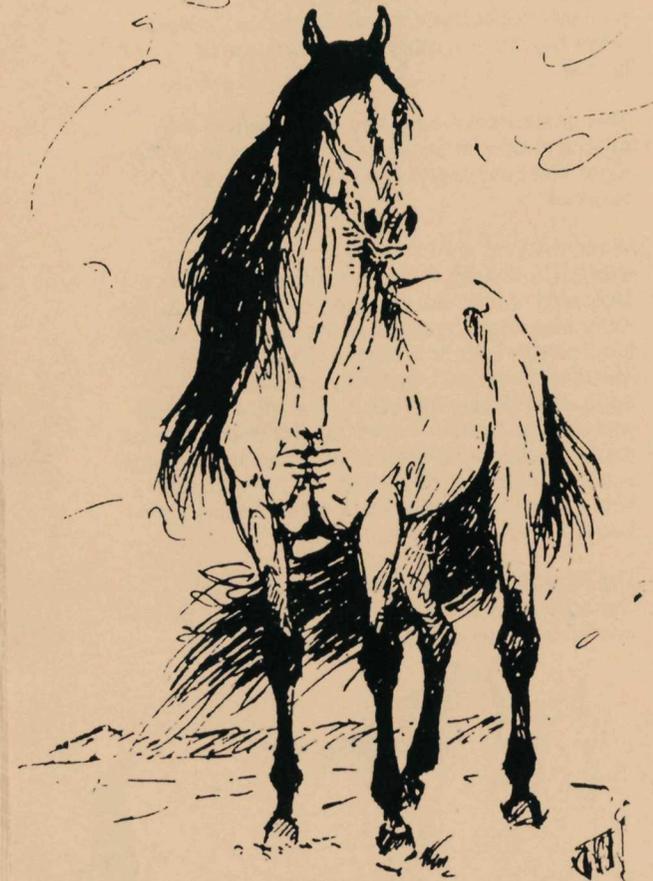
**KIGER HERD MANAGEMENT AREA
1989**

LEGEND

- Paved
- Gravel
- Dirt (Dry Season)

SCALE

0 5 10 Miles



"A Living Legend of Our Western Heritage"

No other horse in America is quite like the Kiger Mustang found on Steens Mountain.

That opinion is held by scores of horse enthusiasts and wild horse authorities who have observed the animals in the wild.

The Kiger Mustangs are thought to be one of the most pure herds of Spanish Mustangs existing in the wild today. Yet the average visitor will probably not recognize the difference between these horses and other free roaming wild horses.

This brochure will help you to appreciate the special characteristics and unique nature of the Kiger Mustang which you might otherwise overlook.

When thinking about the Kiger Mustangs, you should distinguish them from other wild horses. Most wild horses are of mixed breeding while the Kiger Mustangs possess all the characteristics of the Spanish Barb from which the Spanish Mustang came and, by today's standards, appears to be a pure breed. The word *mustang* was derived from the word *'mesteno'* which once meant unclaimed sheep in the Spanish language and later came to mean "wild" or "unclaimed" horse. *Mustang* came about as an English language slang term for *'mesteno'*.

The Kiger Mustang exhibits physical color characteristics known as the "dun factor," which was also common to a major portion of the

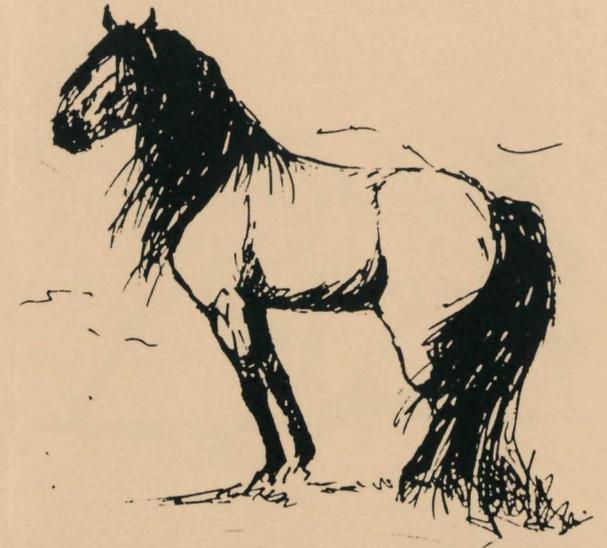
horses the Spaniards reintroduced to North America in the 1600's. Color classifications of the dun factor are: dun, red dun, grulla (mouse gray), buckskin, and variations of these colors. Markings on animals having the dun factor include dorsal stripes; zebra stripes on knees and hocks; chest, rib and arm bands; outlined ears; top one-third of the ear on its back side darker than body color; fawn color inside of ears; multi-colored mane and tail; cobwebbing on face; and face masks. The less white these horses have, the stronger the dun factor. An individual horse having the dun factor may have many but not all of these markings.

Kiger Mustangs have the physical conformation of both the tarpan and oriental hotblood horses from which the original Spanish Mustangs were bred and are slightly smaller than many of the present day breeds of horses. They have small, round bones and small feet with very little feather on their legs and fetlocks. Their eyes are wide set and prominent. These animals also have distinctly hooked ear tips and fine muzzles. The Kiger Mustangs look very much like the modern day Spanish Sorraias. They are indeed a unique breed of wild horse.

The Spanish Mustang was a part of early American history having roots in Native American culture and is the horse that helped settle the West. At one time it was thought to be extinct on the range. Since the Kiger Mustangs may well be the best remaining example of the

Spanish Mustang, their preservation is extremely important.

In 1971, Congress gave the Bureau of Land Management (BLM) responsibility for "protection, management, and control" of wild horses and burros under the Wild Free-Roaming Horse and Burro Act. The BLM manages two



special areas in southeastern Oregon for wild horses having Spanish Mustang characteristics. The areas were set aside to reduce the chance of losing all the animals should a natural catastrophe occur. They are located in the Burns District and are known as the Kiger and the Riddle Mountain Habitat Management Areas (HMAs).

The Kiger HMA covers nearly 37,000 acres, with a minimum herd population of 51 horses and a maximum of 82. The Riddle Mountain HMA contains nearly 28,000 acres and minimum and maximum horse numbers of 33 and 56 respectively. When the herds reach the maximum numbers, the excess are rounded up and taken to the Burns BLM Wild Horse Corrals where they are processed and made available for adoption by the public. The herds increase at an approximate rate of 20 percent annually, requiring a roundup approximately every 4 years.

Periodically, horses from one herd are transferred to the other to prevent inbreeding. Quality animals are returned to the herds following the roundups to maintain herd integrity and improve adoptability. There is a high adoption demand for the Kiger Mustangs for use as pleasure and breeding stock. They are noted for their intelligence and stamina.

