



White River Field Office BLM “State of the Range” Public Land Update

Roan Plateau looking into Trapper's Creek (Cow Creek Allotment)

WRFO Grazing and Rangelands

- ▶ Administers grazing on over a million acres of BLM public lands in Northwest Colorado
- ▶ Permits over 100,000 AUM's of livestock grazing within the field office

2022 BLM Range Program Accomplishments

- ▶ Renewed 9 number of grazing permits
- ▶ Assessed land health on 12 allotments
- ▶ Conducted the 2022 Piceance-East Douglas Horse Gather
- ▶ Worked with producers to plan and implement several new range improvement projects
- ▶ Initiated Vence (virtual livestock fencing) on 2 permits
- ▶ Signed 3 CRMP's and initiated 4 more CRMP's with the White River Conservation District
- ▶ Filled hydrologist vacancy for the field office

Rangeland Improvements

- ▶ BLM is continuously looking at projects to improve public rangelands.
- ▶ BLM has installed or is working to install numerous improvements such as solar water wells, water pipelines, brush control treatments, and riparian improvement projects
- ▶ BLM completed weed treatments on 720 acres in 2022
- ▶ BLM completed 14 brush treatments on 10,414 acres in 2022
- ▶ BLM completed numerous water developments across the field office in 2022

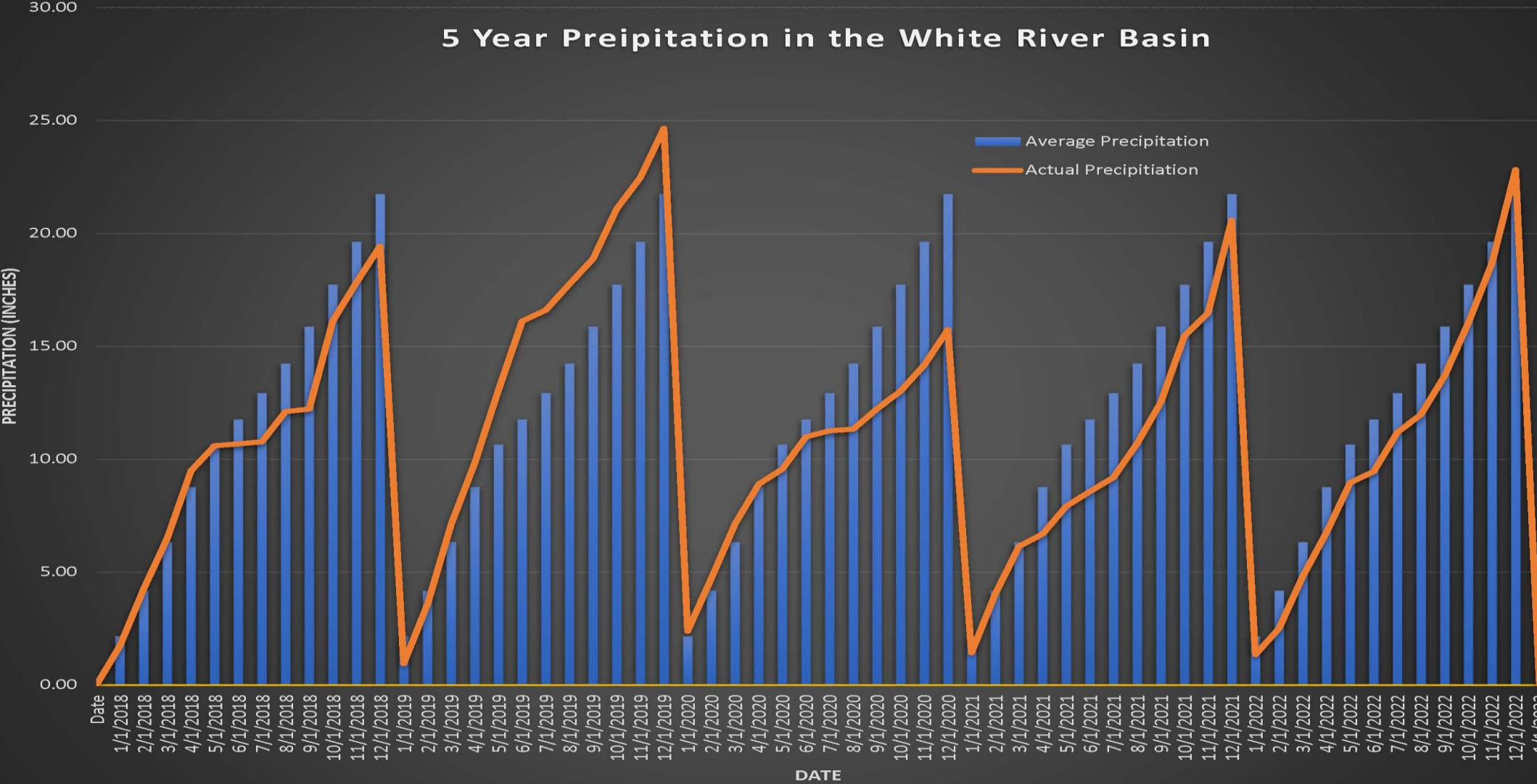
Wild Horses

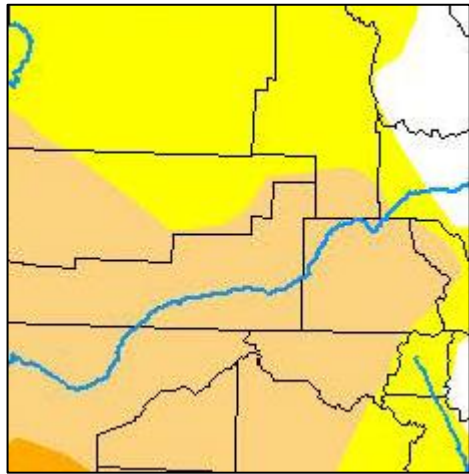
- ▶ 2021 West Douglas horse gather removed 457 animals from the West Douglas Herd Area
- ▶ 2022 Piceance-East Douglas horse gather removed 867 animals from the Piceance-East Douglas HMA
- ▶ Reduced pressure on rangelands has already shown improvements in the Herd Management Areas and Herd Area
- ▶ Additional work to remove remaining excess wild horses from the range is and will continue to be a top priority for the White River Field Office

Past and Current Rangeland Conditions

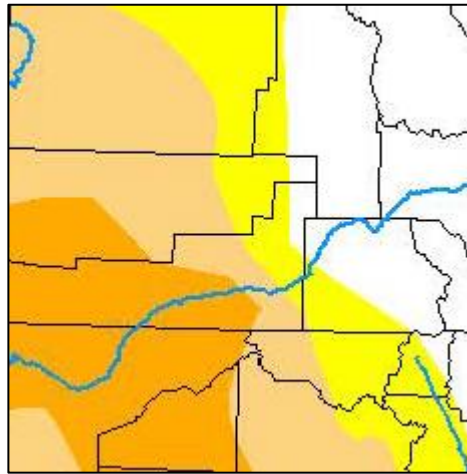
- ▶ 2021: Severe drought across Field Office
- ▶ 2022: Slightly under average winter precipitation, good spring and summer precipitation. The region received favorable growing season precipitation. Most areas benefited from well-timed spring rain and reliable summer monsoon moisture.
- ▶ Very low fire activity in the field office for the 2022 fire season, which is an indicator of less fine fuels and significant monsoonal moisture.

5 Year Preipitation in the White River Basin

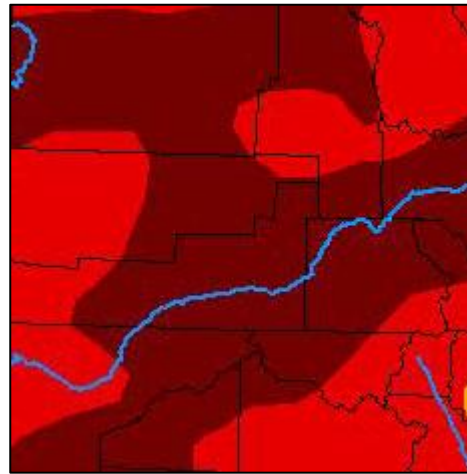




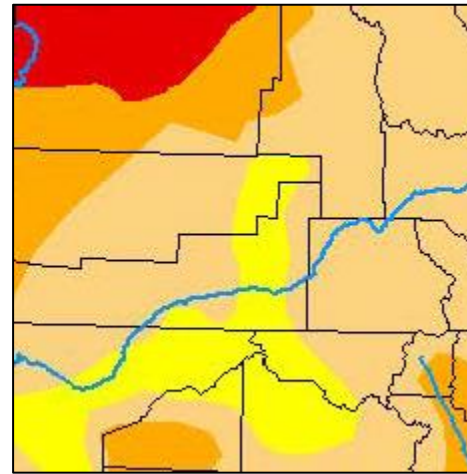
Jan 2019



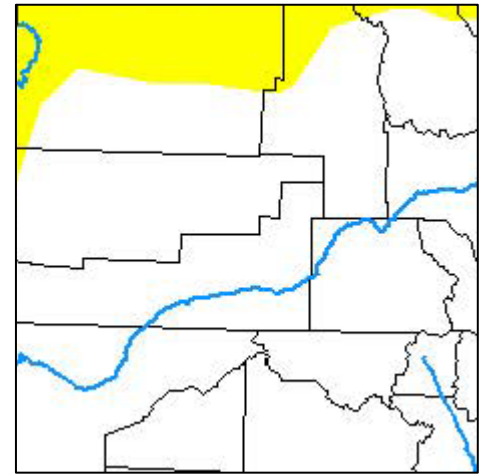
Jan 2020



Jan 2021



Jan 2022



Jan 2023

Intensity:

- | | |
|---|--|
|  None |  D2 Severe Drought |
|  D0 Abnormally Dry |  D3 Extreme Drought |
|  D1 Moderate Drought |  D4 Exceptional Drought |

US Drought Monitor - satellite-based assessments of vegetation health, topsoil moisture, hydrologic data, such as the Surface Water Supply Index and snowpack.

Meadow Creek

September 2020

September 2022



Camp Gulch

August 2021

August 2022



Looking Ahead

Blue Mountain looking towards Dinosaur from the Jensen Cabin allotment

2023 and Beyond

- ▶ With the arrival of new Field Manager Bill Mills, rangeland management/grazing is the #1 priority for the field office
- ▶ 2023 has started out with good winter precipitation so far, with snowpack near 150 percent of average
- ▶ Good residual cover carried over from the 2022 grazing season, will put the rangelands in a good position to start in spring 2023
- ▶ White River Field Office is working to implement stream restoration to improve erosion, reduce sediment loads and increase productivity of riparian vegetation

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- ▶ The BLM invites you to stop by the field office anytime to visit with any member of our staff
 - ▶ Thank you!!