



# Piceance East-Douglas Herd Management Area Rangeland Monitoring Program

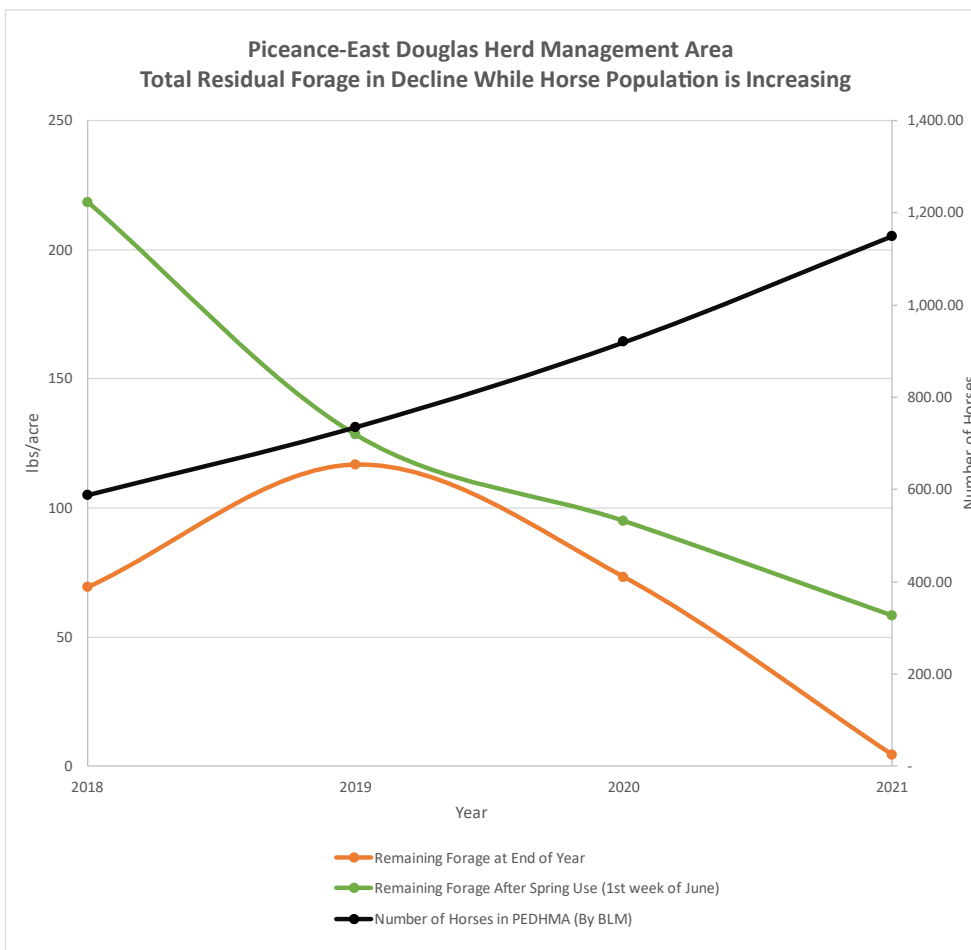


The Piceance-East Douglas Herd Management Area (PEDHMA) is in northwest Colorado, southwest of Meeker and east of State Highway 139. It consists of 190,130 acres.

**Appropriate Management Level (AML): 135-235**  
**2022 Population Inside PEDHMA: ~1,385 (6 times AML)**  
**An additional 140 horses are located outside the PEDHMA**

**Multiple Uses:** Wildlife, Wild Horses, Cattle Grazing, Energy, Endangered Plants, Recreation

An intense range monitoring program was initiated in 2018 to determine forage consumption/utilization. Forage utilization data has been collected on 14 sites for four years to determine which ungulates are utilizing the forage at what times of the year and to what extent. The below graph captures the significant decline in available vegetation within the area where there is an excessive number of horses grazing year-round.



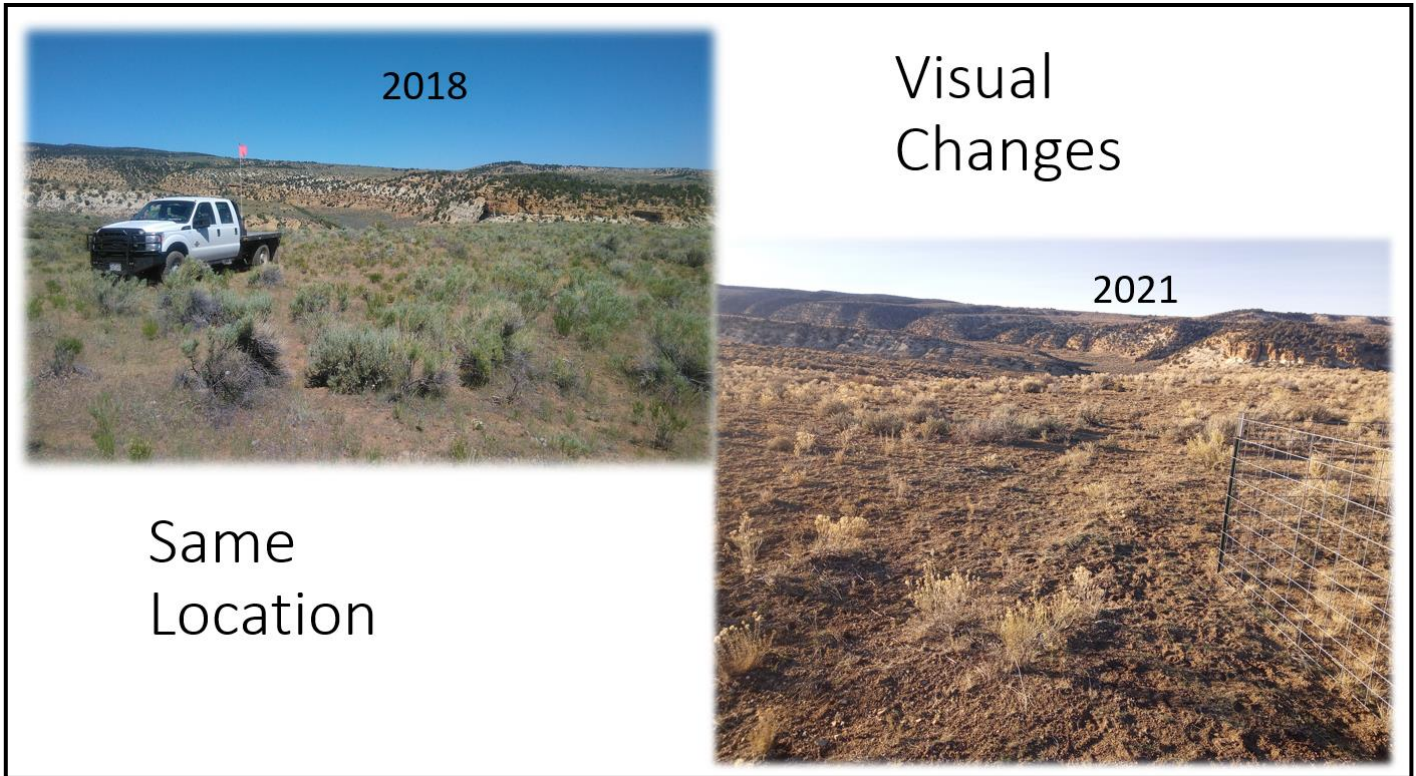
### Residual Forage Decline Graph Summary

Four years of on-the-ground data collection indicates severe decline in overall (spring and late fall) forage availability.

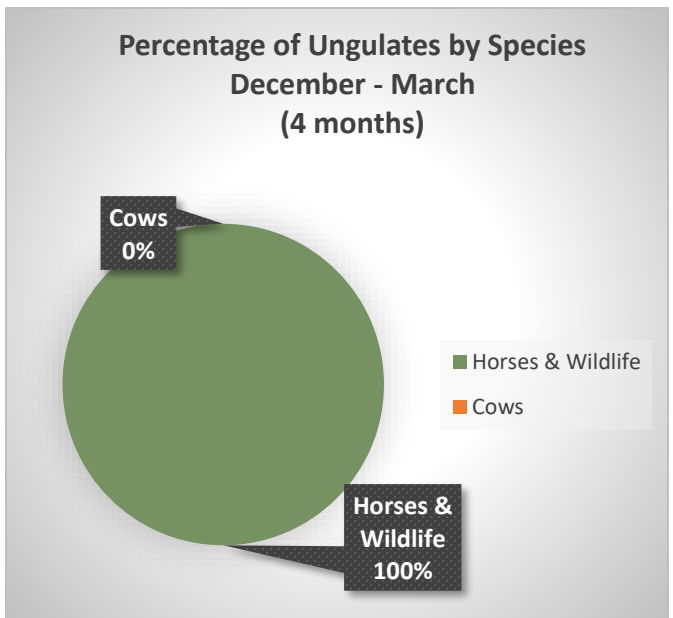
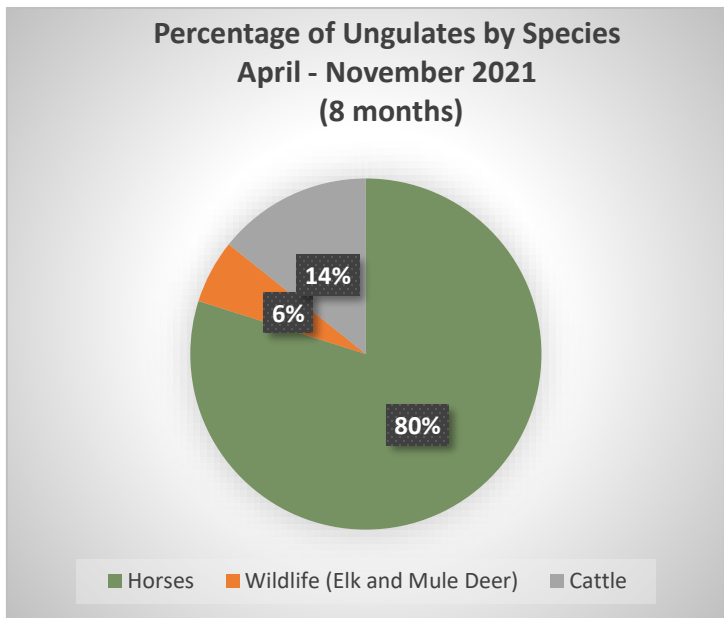
Based on the March 2021 census of horses in the PEDHMA and utilizing the well documented 20% annual population increase, the black line represents the number of horses.

Data collected at the nearby Pinto Colorado Remote Automatic Weather Station (RAWS) <https://raws.dri.edu> indicates increased moisture in the area from 2020 to 2021 while spring and fall residual forage declines significantly.

**Pictures Capture the Severe Decline in Vegetation  
in Piceance East Douglas Herd Management Area (PEDHMA) between 2018 and 2021**



Same  
Location



Trail video cameras were used between April and November 2021 on 14 monitoring sites to identify the specific ungulate species utilizing the forage.

The video camera data is captured in the above chart showing 80% of the ungulates being horses.

Total numbers:  
**Horses = 3,844 / Cattle = 686 / Wildlife = 282**

100% horses and wildlife during winter months.  
**Cattle are not permitted and do not graze in the PEDHMA during the winter months.**