

Kiger Mesteno Association Registration Policy

The Kiger Mesteno Association is the original Kiger registry. It was founded in 1988 with Ron Harding, the BLM Wild Horse Specialist who developed the Kiger breed. KMA was developed in 1988 to protect and preserve the remaining wild Kiger Mustangs and their counterparts in captivity. A Registry and Standard of Perfection have been established for Kiger and half Kiger horses through the KMA. With over 800 horses registered with the KMA, and growing interest in this exceptional breed, their continued survival is assured. We are just beginning to realize the true worth of these magnificent horses. Not only are they proving to be extremely suitable in the areas of pleasure and trail riding, performance, endurance, and driving, but in their wild free-roaming state they represent America's heritage in the flesh. This is a healthy horse breed that Nature created during centuries of breeding. They are hardy, intelligent horses with hearts of gold.

KMA provides well-preserved documentation of each registered Kiger mustang. The origin of each horse is of great importance and can therefore be found in the unique and informative studbook of the KMA, which is divided into 4 divisions; foundation, permanent, non-breeding and half-Kiger. DNA is mandatory in our registry to verify parentage of Kiger mustangs and their offspring to assure correct breeding information now and in the future.

KMA has an elected board of directors in place that serve to ensure the standard of the breed is upheld. We have a close connection with national as well as international breeders to develop the Kiger Mustang into one of the most desirable horse breeds in the world today. We register and inspect horses from both the Kiger and Riddle Herd Management Areas.

Note: To increase the genetic diversity and to promote and enhance the Spanish Mustang characteristics, Mustangs that possessed the features of a Kiger have been selected by the Bureau of Land Management and periodically released/trans located to Kiger and Riddle HMA from various HMAs. To date, the BLM has released 46 additional horses on the Kiger and Riddle HMAs.¹ These measures were implemented on recommendation of Dr Gus Cothran², Department of Veterinary Integrative Bioscience, Texas A&M University, with the intention of keeping the breed genetically diverse and healthy.³ Between 1988 and 1993 the BLM also put some of these horses up for adoption to the general public. Due to these factors some registries have chosen to register these horses. In KMA, the horses that passed inspection have been registered in the permanent division. These horses were added via a committee started in 1988.⁴ Ron Harding, BLM Wild Horses Specialist, served on the committee which wrote the rules for admission. The books were formally closed to outside HMAs in 1994.

Footnotes

1. BLM Documents, Kiger/Riddle Mtn. HMA Plan Evaluation & Kiger Mustang ACEC, <http://www.blm.gov/or/districts/burns/plans/files/kiger2014.pdf> July 1, 2014, Page 21

When management of the Riddle Mtn. and Kiger (East Kiger and Smyth Creek) herds shifted to promoting and enhancing the Spanish Mustang characteristics in the 1970s and 1980s, horses that possessed these features have been selected and released/trans located to these HMAs from various HMAs across Oregon. The current herds are made up of horses from HMAs across Oregon including Beatty's Butte, Paisley Desert, South Steens, Palomino Buttes, Jackies Butte, Heath Creek-Sheepshead, Warm Springs and Coyote Lakes-A1vord-Tu1e Springs. Available records indicate there have been 10 horses trans located to Riddle Mtn. HMA and 36 horses trans located to Kiger HMA since 1977.

2. KMA meeting minutes, June 27, 1992 page 4

Ron stated that Gus Cothran states that in establish a breed, phenotypic appearance is at least equally important to blood typing.

3. BLM Documents, Kiger/Riddle Mtn. HMA Plan Evaluation & Kiger Mustang ACEC, <http://www.blm.gov/or/districts/burns/plans/files/kiger2014.pdf> July 1, 2014. Page, 21

Pg. 21 The Spanish characteristics highlighted by the dun factor are readily apparent in the two herds today due to BLMs selection process. Since the early 1990's maintaining adequate genetic diversity in these relatively small population size herds has been a concern (Refer to Appendix D - Genetics Analysis Summary). Release records indicate horses were being exchanged between Riddle, Kiger and Smyth Creek even back in 1986. The release records following most of the gathers of these HMAs indicate an exchange of horses to help maintain adequate genetic variation. Exchanging horses between both HMA 's and releases or translocations from other HMAs into the Riddle Mtn. and Kiger herds are of horses selected not only for their Spanish physical markers but also to add new genetics to the herds to help prevent a loss of genetic variability. It is well supported in population ecology that loss of genetic diversity and inbreeding is inevitable in small and isolated populations~ and can occur in just a few generations.

4. Many historical archives reference BLM Kiger Type adoptions to public. BLM Records will reflect that the BLM created Kiger Type adoptions beginning in 1988 and ending 1993. Listed are some but not all of the references to the BLM sponsored adoptions found in KMA archives. During that time advisor, Ron Harding, was very supportive of private parties owning and exhibiting these Kigers to the public to add value to the Wild Horse Program in the state and share these rare treasures with the Public.

References to BLM sponsored adoptions of found horses. Note Ron Harding's participation. KMA Meeting, September 19, 1988; KMA Meeting, Oct 29 1989; KMA Meeting, April 28, 1990; KMA Meeting, January 18, 1992 pages 2,3, 12; KMA Meeting, June 27, 1992 page 2.