Healthy Rangelands for Healthy Ecosystems, Herds and Economies

Our Public Lands require management for Multiple Use
We Love Horses...!!
We support Wild Horses at AML

**Origin and Etymology of mustang**

Mexican Spanish *mestengo*, from Spanish, stray, from *mesteño* strayed, from *mesta* annual roundup of cattle that disposed of strays.
Current Policy is Failing the Horses and the Rangelands
Multiple Use Mandate

**BLM Mission:**

The Bureau of Land Management's mission is to sustain the health, diversity, and productivity of public lands for the use and enjoyment of present and future generations.

**A Multiple Use and Sustained Yield Mission:**

Congress tasked the BLM with a mandate of managing public lands for a variety of uses such as energy development, livestock grazing, recreation, and timber harvesting while ensuring natural, cultural, and historic resources are maintained for present and future use.
The State of Utah Supports the Multiple Use Mandate
Multiple Use is Critical to Utah

Wild Horses and Burros
Wildlife
Recreation
Water Resources
Grazing
Renewable Energy; Wind, Solar, Geothermal
The Wild Free-Roaming Horses and Burros Act of 1971

- Preamble (purpose):
  - 1. To require the (A) protection, (B) management, and (C) control of wild free-roaming horses and burros (WHB) on public lands.
  - 2. Manage WH&B to achieve and maintain a thriving natural ecological balance on the public lands.
  - 3. All management activities shall be at the minimal feasible level and shall be carried out in consultation with the wildlife agency of the State wherein such lands are located in order to protect the natural ecological balance of all wildlife species.
26 Years of Change, Wah Wah
26 Years of Change Blawn Wash
26 Years of Change, Lower Blawn
Root Responses to Defoliation

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Percent leaf volume removed</th>
<th>Percent root growth stopped</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>10%</td>
<td>0%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>20%</td>
<td>0%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>30%</td>
<td>0%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>40%</td>
<td>0%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>50%</td>
<td>2-4%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>60%</td>
<td>50%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>70%</td>
<td>78%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>80%</td>
<td>100%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>90%</td>
<td>100%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Consequences of Reduced Root Growth

• The net effect of severe grazing is to reduce:
  • Total absorptive area of roots.
  • Soil volume explored for soil resources e.g. water and nitrogen.
• Increased soil erosion
• Net reduction of available forage for wildlife, insects and species of concern
• Loss of Wildlife forage, cover and habitat
• Loss of economic potential for rangelands
Impacts to Water in the West
No Livestock grazing in this area in 30 years

Photo Credit Justin Rozich USFS
Wild Horses Monopolize Water Sources

**Annual Use of Water**

- **Horse**
- **Native wildlife (N = 53)**
- **Temperature**

The graph shows the annual use of water over the months, with a significant peak in August and a smaller peak in July.
Recommendations

1- Achieve Appropriate Management Level within 3 years
2- Use all available fertility control options; HMA’s will require site specific solutions
3- Remove young adoptable animals
4- Retain an adequate number of high quality, young animals for herd viability and genetic diversity
5- Implement proven grazing principles