

# Healthy Rangelands for Healthy Ecosystems, Herds and Economies

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Our Public Lands require management for Multiple Use



# We Love Horses...!!



# We support Wild Horses at AML

## – Origin and Etymology of mustang

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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

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## **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

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# Multiple Use is Critical to Utah

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**Wild Horses and Burros**

**Wildlife**

**Recreation**

**Water Resources**

**Grazing**

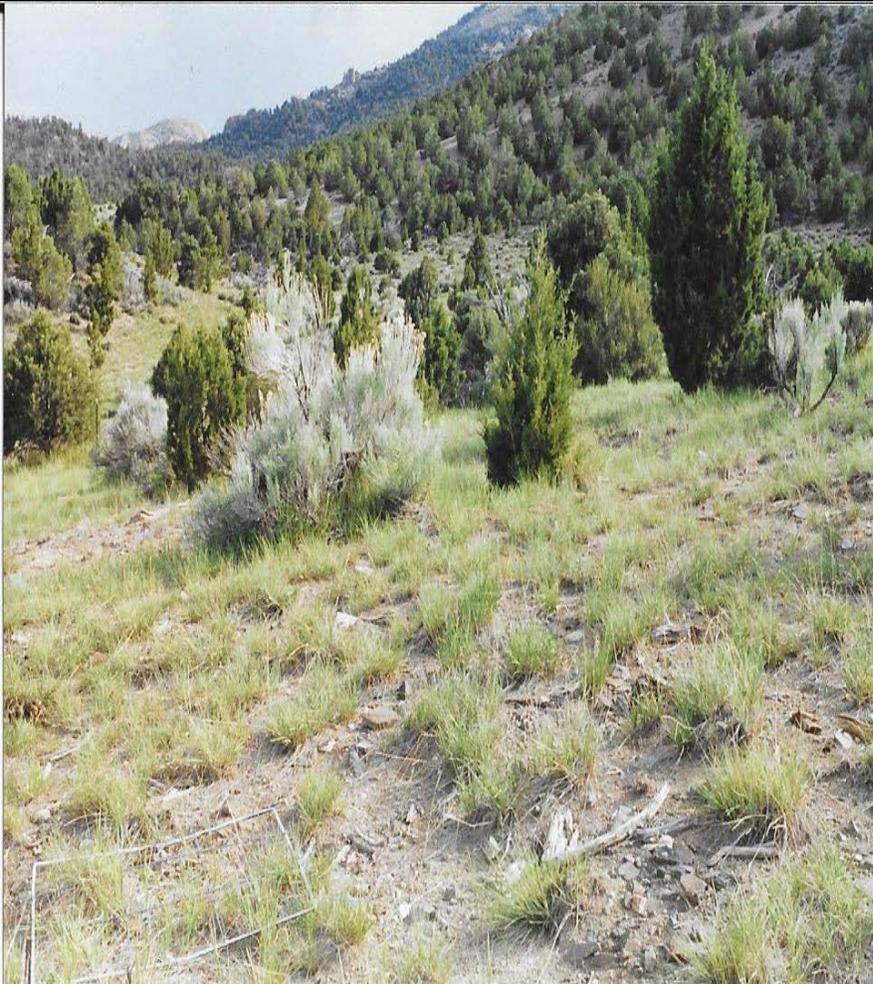
**Renewable Energy; Wind, Solar, Geothermal**

# The Wild Free-Roaming Horses and Burros Act of 1971

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- 16 U.S.C. §1331 et. seq.
- 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



1990



2003



2016

# 26 Years of Change Blawn Wash



1990



2003



2016

## 26 Years of Change, Lower Blawn



1990

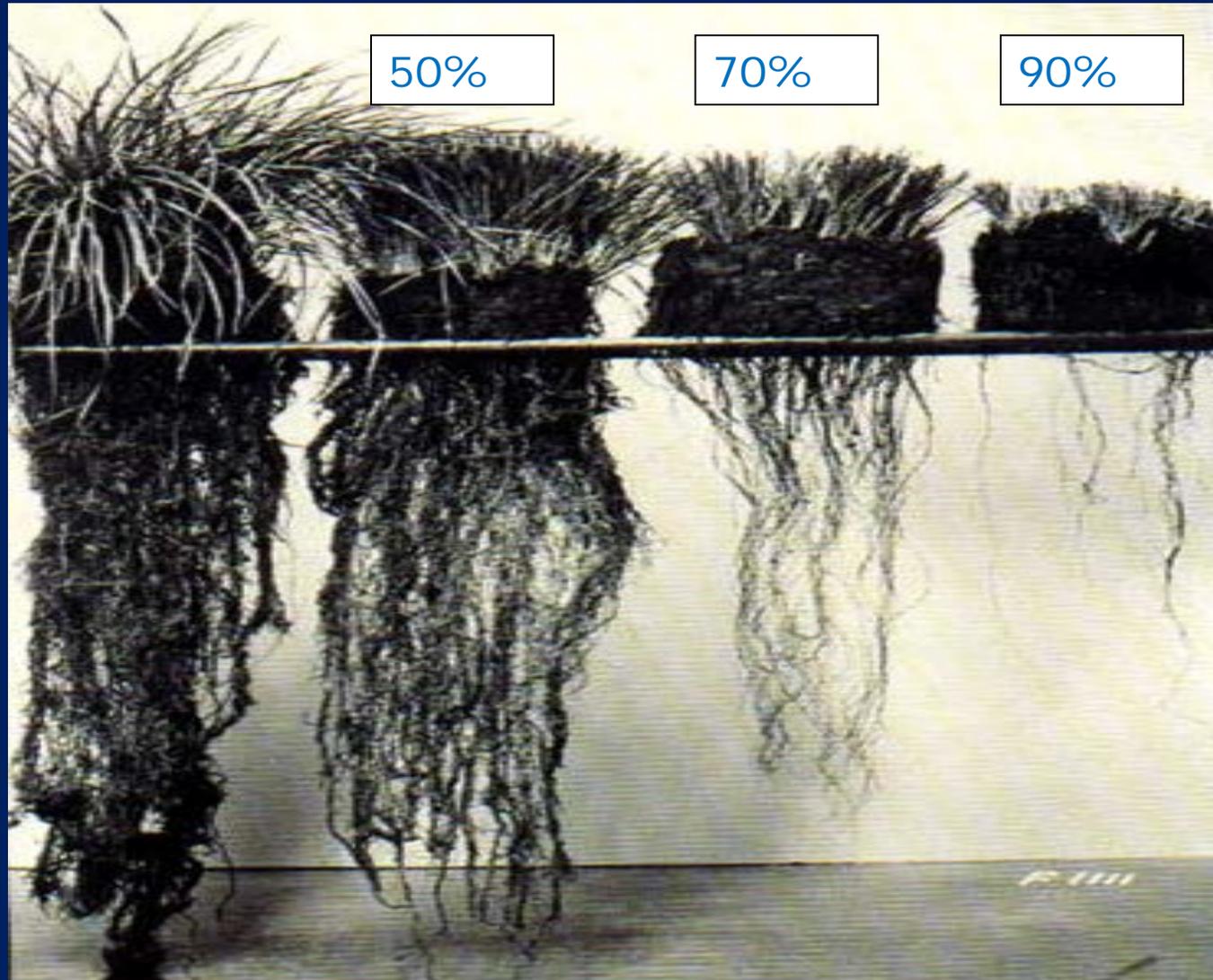


2002



2016

# Root Responses to Defoliation



← Level of Removal

Percent leaf volume removed	Percent root growth stopped
10%	0%
20%	0%
30%	0%
40%	0%
50%	2-4%
60%	50%
70%	78%
80%	100%
90%	100%

# 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

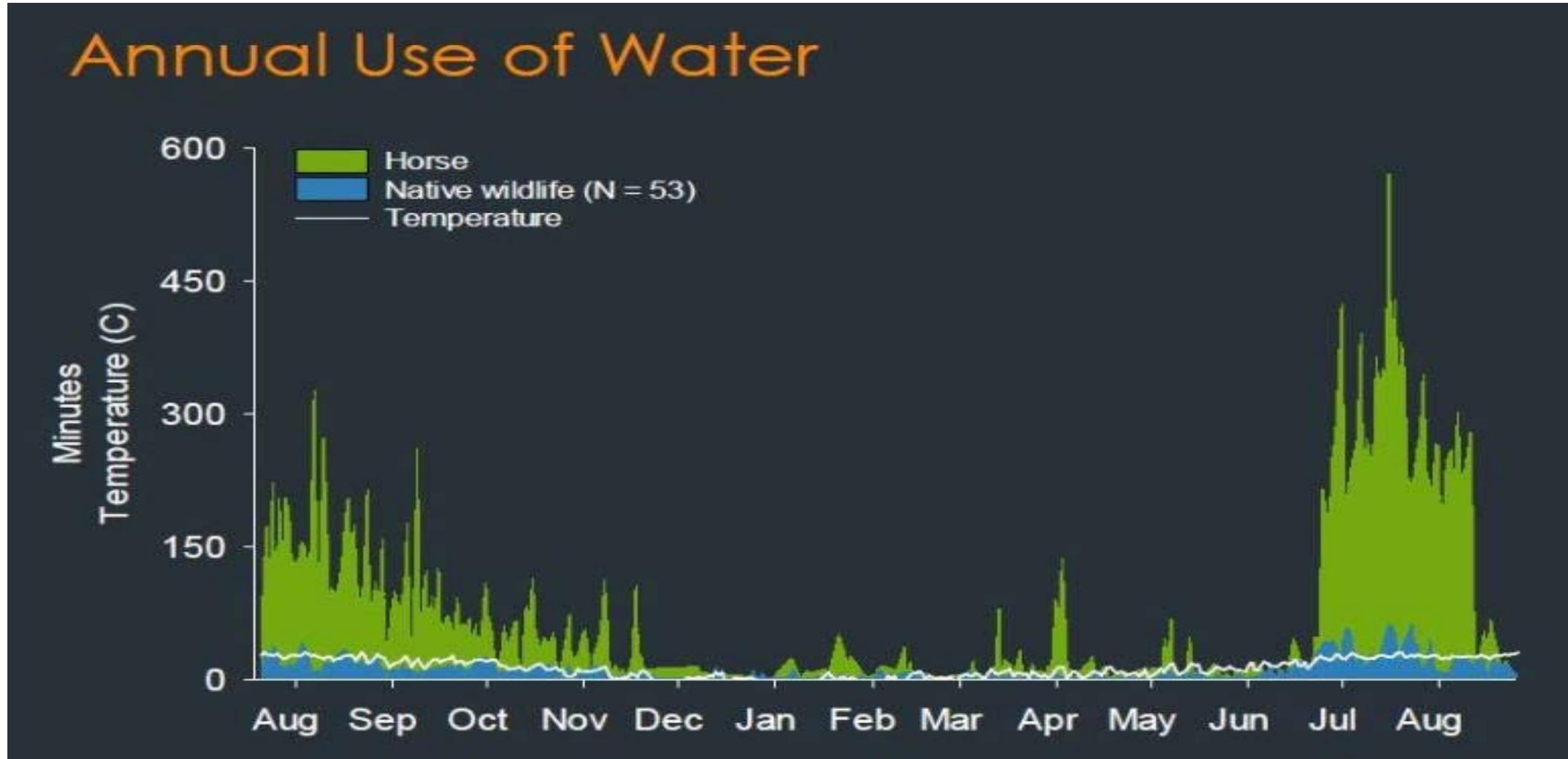




No Livestock grazing in this area in 30 years

Photo Credit Justin Rozich USFS

# Wild Horses Monopolize Water Sources



# Recommendations

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- 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