

ROUGH EDITED COPY

BLM NTC

WILD HORSE AND BURRO ADVISORY BOARD

SEPTEMBER 9, 2016

CART CAPTIONING PROVIDED BY: SHERRIN PATTI

CLOSED CAPTION PRODUCTIONS, LLC

PO BOX 278

LOMBARD, IL 60148

\* \* \* \* \*

This is being provided in a rough-draft format. Communication Access Realtime Translation (CART) is provided in order to facilitate communication accessibility and may not be a totally verbatim record of the proceedings

\* \* \* \* \*

The September 9th 2016 wild horse and burro advisory board meeting will begin at 8:00 a.m. PDT.

>> Good morning, welcome back.

I'm Kathie Libby, we had a great session yesterday afternoon particularly with the comment period where folks expressed a lot of very heartfelt views and opinions. And today we have a day loaded with information.

It's always good to ground our opinions in information so we're looking forward to some of the information that will be provided today.

I would like to first of all say welcome back to those of you who are watching us on webcam.

Before I turn it over to Fred and the board, I just want to briefly review the agenda. The forest service update which we'll given with but we won't begin exactly at 8:05.

We will have updates from the forest service, an off range update with Holle Hooks. A mustang foundation update and a budget update with Michael Reiland and we'll take a break.

We'll have an on-range update and research update.

So you're going to get updated all day.

And just before lunch, Jason will be sharing with us the stakeholder partnership toolkit which you'll find very interesting.

We will take lunch hopefully at noon and the one slight change on the agenda is the recognition ceremony scheduled is going to be held immediately after lunch so 1 o'clock that will occur for about fifteen minutes.

We'll then have a call in by Gordon and that is related to land health fundamentals. Something we heard a lot about yesterday.

Again, a break and before the board goes into its working groups Dean will pick up on what we didn't get to yesterday which is BLM's response to the board's recommendations at their last meeting.

So we'll do the BLM responses to the recommendations and then the advisory board will propagate their current new recommendations.

Then, sadly, we will adjourn?

Okay?

Fred.

>> Fred Woehl: Thank you.

We appreciate it much.

We appreciate everyone coming back today and appreciate again the opportunity to be here.

As a result of all the public comments that we got yesterday and the comments that we got in the mail, I've asked my co-chair, Dr. Sue McDonald to address some of these first thing this morning and she's going to -- I'm going to turn it over to her at this point.

>> Sue: Thanks, Fred.

I want to thank everybody for their comments yesterday.

They're very helpful in this particular round of comment was quite outstanding in terms of the positive suggestions and for the most part the misinformation that is always difficult to handle when we know people are very upset about things and it's based on misinformation that we understand gets out there and with the internet gets spread.

I also wanted to mention the large number of public comments that came to us in

writing either through the BLM address or directly.

We read them all.

We often get together and talk about them a couple of us at a time and so we take them all to heart and those also I thought, maybe others have comments.

But my impression was they're much more positive in tone in terms of suggestions and many more personal rather than form letter type suggestions.

So I would also like to give a shout-out to Debbie Collins and others who worked on the website.

I just checked into that yesterday and if you Google BLM myths and facts you can go right to a page that will help with getting the truth on many of the issues that continue to be spread, inaccuracies about the program.

About our role, about what the BLM can and can't do.

So -- I'll leave it at that unless anyone has anything to add about the feedback we've had.

>> I'd like to add something in that set.

There's a volunteer organization that came to the subcommittees yesterday.

And said, you know, we're here to help.

We want to help and provided lots of good information packets.

Thank ya'll for coming and offering up your assistance for the BLM.

>> Julie: I would like to call everyone's attention to the editorial in the Elko paper yesterday with respect to this program.

Actually the headline is it says the horse program at epic low.

But when you read the just of the editorial it's actually kind of positive and wishes us good luck in our problem solving efforts and I'd like to -- if it's at all appropriate, introduce this editorial as one of our public comments because it certainly reflect s this community.

>> I don't see any problem with that.

>> It was very gratifying for me since the first time I've been on this board I heard almost consensus where people now realize we got a problem and we need to do something about it.

There's still considerable disagreement about what we do and how we do it.

But at least for the first time I see everybody recognizing that there's trouble.

And it's no longer just brewing on the horizon, it's here.

I'm really happy to see that people are coming to that conclusion as we sit down and actually have proper progressive discussion about how to handle the problem and quit arguing about whether the problem exists.

>> Do you have any comments.

>> Ginger: Well I would echo what Cope has said.

I think almost every comment that I heard had value, I think.

And I also, again, the tour was very enlightening.

And there are real serious issues with the numbers of horses in Nevada.

But I think we have some pretty exciting new volunteer efforts that could get people out in the field in a very proactive way to help and I know that's what I'm all about trying to help.

So thanks to everybody.

>> Fred Woehl: June?

>> June: I'd also like to tag onto what Cope said.

I -- I felt so often in the past people have said that there's a problem but they haven't -- that haven't done thing and we should do things but offered no solutions.

I noticed yesterday that many of the problems with that were addressed also had

some substantive way to address those problems so we really appreciate that.

>> Fred Woehl: Thank you.

One thing that was interesting to me and I'm going to bring up this morning is the fact that there were several folks asked about an emergency declaration and that.

My background for 36 years I worked with the U.S. Department of Agriculture in the loan area and we had lots of emergencies and that helps with low interest loans and things of this but I'm not well acquainted with what that means to the bureau of ad management.

I'm going to ask Dean this morning if he has any idea or if held get back with the board within thirty days on what that would entail.

What it would do and if it's something that we, as a board, need to look into.

I know it has to come from a ground level but like the local rec.

But if we as the board it would help and is something realistic the board would entertain making that a recommendation or a letter or something like that.

>> So I'm not familiar with the details of declaring an emergency for reasons of wild horse overpopulations.

I'm more familiar with the process for drought and moneys that come to local counties and how that process works so we'll commit to looking into that and I don't know the answers today but it's been suggested three times in the audience so there may be something out there.

>> Fred Woehl: If you would research that and get back to us I would appreciate it. I would be more included to do and I am just thinking out loud now and the board members feel free to jump in.

We have a unique situation here where we not only have too many horses but rain degradation due to drought and things of this nature and not necessarily do this emergency as strictly a wild horse emergency.

But maybe let the wild horse situation tag team on the drought and the range and things of that nature.

Does that make sense.

>> Dean: It does, it's about the health of the land and the future and all that. And sustainability.

All the things that were talked about yesterday.

>> Fred Woehl: All right, thank you, board, for your thoughts this morning.

Kathie, I'm sorry for taking your time this morning but these things like this need to be said and expressed and Sue told me this morning when I talked to her, she said it is our board meeting so if you have any problems take it up with her I'm sorry, I got wrapped up in that.

Hope, we're glad you're here from the Department of Agriculture and I know you got some good stuff to share so please, feel free to just jump in.

>> Hope Woodward: I'd like to thank for you for being able to give the update.

I'll give an overview and give updates on forest level activities and discuss greater and bistate sage-grouse conservation as related to forest service and what came out of the decision in September last year.

So first of all just an overview of the territories.

This isn't the best map here.

This is also on our website right now.

You can go to the forest service website and see where the territories are.

Overall there are 34 active wild horse and burro territories.

Two million plus acres and 53 total with 19 inactive.

Overall current population is about 6,000 wild horses and 900 wild burros.

As far as Nevada goes there's approximately 2300 wild horse and burros in the territories and that is about two and a half times over AML and about 20 active territories and 9 inactive territories and approximately 1.5 million acres.

About 307,000 are inactive.

As far as staffing goes for the wild horse and burro program and service we have one new manager, myself that took over some of the duties of Barry I. and based in the Washington office as of May and the interregional coordinator Tom's former position.

There hasn't been an outreach in Utah but that's expected and expect someone to hire in early 2017 and as far as region three which is the southwest region in Arizona and New Mexico currently wild horse and burro specialist is being outreached for and will go on for about a week or more.

And that position will be based in the Albuquerque office and the duties will be part wild horse and burro.

And just a brief overview on the wild horse and burro and the lands and more information as far as the funding base when I discuss cooperation with BLM.

Right now we're main focus is completing an NEPA on management territory plans to improve the management level and to review management plans that perhaps didn't go there NEPA recently and work on implementing the management actions. The management actions that we're looking at basically is working on gathers and helicopters, adoptions or sales.

And then adopting forest horses off of territory and out of BLM long-term holding and then certainly really key about anything -- about being able to do anything is the need to partner with local communities.

As well as external outside of local area and the state government and other nonprofits and supporters.

In terms of the cooperation with BLM since 2013 we kind of shifted past in terms of forest service branching off and not having engaging as actively with the BLM in terms of the BLM doing adoptions and doing gathers and doing management for forest service.

And so our focus then has been on, main funding is about 1.1 million dollars this fiscal FY 16 is down from 1.3.

And that goes towards long-term holding costs.

For BLM or we keep forest service horses managed in long-term corrals that's about 266 in the end of FY 15 and in long-term pastures are about 771.

As of nine, the end of September 2015 and actually that number's a little bit -- has dropped or includes 49 horses that were taken out of long-term holding by the national forest at the end of this August, July that have been adopted, sold to gentling contracts.

So we want to remove these horses from long-term holding it's a very large number but anything that we can do.

The activities have been very helpful.

In terms of working with BLM, one of the goals that we have is to increase the use of the population control methods.

The BLM and forest service have been signing an overview with The Humane Society of the United States with the respect and use of immuno contraceptives as a key component with the national forest and with BLM.

Another key point is increasing coordination in joint management areas. And so we've been working on BLM forest service on cooperative management on joint management areas that we're hoping will get signed in early fiscal year 17.

And that we see as a path that will help to increase coordination and use of service first agreements with BLM forest service although there are limitations working together right now due to appropriations that limits the BLM in terms of sale authority.

And that we are not putting any further funds into long-term holding of wild horse and burro but there are pathways that we can move ahead for and I feel optimistic about that and feel the forest when they see in BLM field offices when they see that the MOU is signed I think that will open up a little more flexibility.

And see the ability to move ahead and work together.

Moving onto updates in first activities.

I'm going to be discussing some of the areas where we do have management plans.

We're working on where there are gathers going on and just an update here.

It's 8:24.

What time do I have?

What time do I end and when's the next person on, please?

>> (Speaker far from mic).

>> Hope Woodward: So, I'm going to leave this on here I could send you back to the next one.

The next slides are on sage-grouse conservation so they'll mainly discuss that so I'm going to be just talking now and these are also, my notes are available, I can send them digitally to the board.

So starting up in the north, there's a big summit, wild horse and burro territory in Oregon in region six.

About 27,000 acres.

This wild horse territory is about two times of AML and the herd is genetically viable. They're working with a central Oregon government council to get the plan revision and setting AML and expecting the need for process will be completed at the end of fiscal year 2018.

They're starting to administer PZP and there also have been partnering with the wild horse coalition.

And prior to 2013 that coalition helped with adoptions.

>> Another territory is Murderers Creek and this is kind of a joint management area. They're working on revising the management plan and they're expected to scope in early 2017.

And the population is about two times over AML.

The forest itself is needing to develop technical capacity and to build public support but they are slowly moving ahead.

And we have actually teams we funded to help with the AML.

Issues there certainly are with court order to reduce wild horse and burro related to the endangered salmon and also the court order with a permit.

They have removed wild horses off of private land and they're working about developing technical capacity and they've been turning those horses back onto the territory.

So that's an area that has issues I think within signing of the BLM forest service MOU on JMA I think that will encourage them to work a little faster on that.

Devil's garden in the Modoc National Forest.

Modoc had the greatest number of excess horses in any territory.

2016 population were six times over AML and the management plan has been completed.

Wild horse gather by helicopters planned for removal off of private and tribal lands

sometime in mid-September.

Contract hasn't yet been awarded.

We don't have a firm date on that.

I expect they'll be treated with PZP.

This as I noted is a working as service first agreement with the BLM and the BLM is going to be conducting adoptions out of Litchfield corrals and also the CRL for the helicopter gather.

There's a Facebook site where you can look at the horses available for adoption. Eventually have those up.

But there's also information about adoption success stories of the Modoc wild horse which is generally a sturdier draft type horse confirmation.

They've also been working on a collaborative group.

And they're expanding long-term solutions with ecological concerns.

I'll be discussing about seven or eight of these brief snapshots on wild horse territories.

There's another in region three at about 24,000 acres.

There's the national forest of the territory managed using PZP and they have gentling contracts out.

They remove horses using the VLM contracts and they have successfully conducted adoption to good homes.

There's also a cost share agreement to help with gentling and adoption.

As I noted earlier they removed horses and sent them out for gentling.

Moving on, into region four, north hills, wild horse territory which is also a jointly managed area with BLM BLM.

Region four about 23, 365 forest service.

There's new plan to work together with BLM to do NEPA together with the wild horse complex.

This has an been area where having that BLM forest service joint management plan will encourage more activity, action on getting that done.

We've had ongoing issue of wild horses on an active allotment and since 2014 the horses are there to date.

They have plans to do like a capture objective of the 15-30 horses and remove half of those in 2016-17 with a similar number of horse removals in 2017-18.

Then another -- into Nevada.

The spring mountains wild horse and herd management project EA is currently being worked on.

That is here in Nevada and about 164,000 acres.

Don't have a good number.

I think it's really approximate.

75-80 are on national service forest lands.

And this is about the horses from cold creek.

They are working on a joint area managed project.

The public outreach is expected to commence in mid-October and run through mid-November and signature isn't expected until June 2017.

Other management plans are the wild burro and the monticris to wild horse and to have them, again start up in 2017.

Fiscal year '17.

Then moving on into region three, again, back, discussing the Heber allotment.

In Arizona at 14,000 acres.

These issues were trespassed horses from White River Apache and others migrated

after two large fires post-2000 and those contribute to removing barriers and also realizationalists.

They want to reach the fence barriers.

The territory was believed to be vacant prior to the fires and then there were 250 horses in the forest, plus twenty on the Heber territory and 122 horses on the Apache National Forest.

There's a management plan revision for the forest was appealed and the demands have been met.

And that's cleared the way now for work on the management plan and the forest is developing a communication plan and collaboration process to determine management plan actions.

With expected scoping at the end of 2017.

Just reviewing some non-wild horse, just stray or abandoned horses and these are horses that are not protected by the Wild Horse and Burro Act and considered trespass animals.

The herd that house bill 2013 was signed in May 2016 which makes it illegal to shoot, kill or slaughter a horse that is part of the Salt River horse herd.

The assumption is that there are at least 100 horses on forest service land only. With 300 on other lands.

Management is dependent on signing an MOU with the state of Arizona and the forest service and region three has submitted the MOU to the state for them to complete and the horses are not yet the forest service or Arizona responsibility.

Management is currently limited to forest service, State Department of Agriculture and local sheriff convening when there's an issue and the Salt River management group is taking horses to the vet when there is an issue after administering PZP.

That's the end of my summary on some of the management actions right now for the forest service.

>> Question, are these new management plans being done on the project level, plan revision or plan amendment

>> Hope Woodward: Yeah, that's a good question.

I think that came up the last time.

I think it varies.

I think the one on the Humbolt, the spring mown town is 2019 and I think these are being done.

Since this is project level then they're the -- they're the 2-18 objection.

My understanding is that.

An amendment three to a plan which is amending the forest service plans then that's under the 219 but the others are the 2-18 objection process because they're project level.

>> It's been a big issue since the Tongass did a forest plan that drew a lot of attention.

We're still trying to straighten out the difference between amendments.

That's why I'm asking are these management plan changes done at the forest level or the project level?

It's a huge difference.

>> Hope Woodward: Yeah I can address that and I can look into that issue.

I don't think that that's -- and I can get that information to you.

It's fairly clearcut.

There are some things that come up when things get appealed if they start out let's say on a 2012 and then they have to go into the 218 process, the objection process

and then they have to go into 2019 so there have been different questions related to that and I can certainly begin to document that or look into each of the plans and understand what processes there are.

>> You're talking the objection process and then doing this under the 2012 planning rule because we got objections rather than appeals.

>> Hope Woodward: It may vary by the forest which rule they're using.

The complex is under the 2019 rule and I don't know about the other management plans and what rules they're following.

>> I know there are early adopters on the 2012 rule.

The Apache was not.

It'll be interesting to see how that goes because they're trying to move away from the old planning rule and onto the 2012 because you have the objections process there rather than going to the appeals and litigation.

It'd be interesting to see what rule they're working under and how they're managing it.

>> Hope Woodward: And I think it'll be interesting at the project level to see if it's the 218 project process as opposed to the plan revision.

It's maybe rare that you have forests that are starting those now that are not following the 2012 or the 219 but I'll certainly begin to document that and gather that information.

And we can have further discussion if there's certain questions that might arise depending on what authority is being followed.

Thank you. Any other questions before I go into the sage-grouse PowerPoint?

So it was signed in 9, 2015 and then in 5, 2015.

So standard guidelines have been set for wild horse and burro management.

And as discussed get by BLM there are certain areas identified as sage-grouse focal areas and that's as Kristin noted yesterday that that's the best of the best and I think that's a fish and wildlife service more designation and that's likely, well, it's the best of the best where you have lex, where you have the best habitat.

And then there's the PHMA the priority habitat and some state have other areas.

Actually other habitat areas there are other designations and then general habitat management area and I believe there's also a different designation to discuss for bistate.

And here in Nevada, we have both bistate and then we also have greater sage-grouse and I believe a majority is under greater sage-grouse with a bistate in California and Nevada.

So just following BLM's lead to get an understanding of how many acres, how many territories we have that are in wild horse, in sage-grouse habitat.

By the way this map in particular is, oh, there, so this map in particular shows the coloration.

Here it's -- this -- variations of this map are available on the internet.

This one particularly though outlines these circles here which is actually the territories wild horse and burro territories in this area and you can see their overlay with where their colored areas of different habitats.

So most of the area, wild horse and burro territories is in general habitat.

It looks like Modoc could call in but it's outside.

It's included to show that it actually doesn't have wild -- sage-grouse habitat.

So looking at that, you found that we had 12 wild horse territories and one in greater sage-grouse habitat in in bistate there are three wild horse territories.

Just looking at the number of acres there's about 93 and a half thousand and in

greater.

The general habitat about 352 and a half thousand.

And then in bistate about 70,000.

But there weren't any of the sage-grouse focal areas in wild horse and burro territories.

There wasn't any intersection of that.

Let me go back.

I did this exercise of prior to actually engaging with the forest to determine, well, what are you doing now?

Some of the first exercises that are required is that plots have been set up, five plots. In allotments so most of it has been focused.

My understanding, thought, it may have been focused on grazing, where there's livestock grazing.

I'm still working on gathering that information.

I don't think that that's necessarily true, but I want to look and see where we have habitat and then work with the forest and understanding do you also set up plots where you don't have live stock grazing?

So that they're also our monitoring points.

This year five next year ten.

This year the forest and BLM have a different process and working through management for greater sage-grouse and this next slide is very busy.

But it actually shows, I'm not sure if I can enlarge this but it shows that there's standards, two standards in fact for greater sage-grouse and then the bistate sage-grouse has somewhat looser, I shouldn't say looser.

But they have different types of, it's not standards and guides.

But there are within the standards, recommendations for removing wild horses and burros outside the territory.

If it's outside the priority those horses should be removed and that's the standard.

I believe the top one, oh, I actually have this one here so I can read this for you better.

But basically the idea is that there could be, given requirements for monitoring and reporting back in five years with Fish and Wildlife Service, there could be a need for greater activity and managing wild horses and burros depending on where the activity lies and I don't have anything to report back on what they're planning to do. This is an exercise to find out what is being done and beginning to do some mapping exercise.

And so just regarding to some of those points that I mentioned is to verify as I said earlier that the appropriate monitoring assessment per the greater sage-grouse amendment, guidelines, that they are conducted in wild horse and burro territories and these are suggestions for research.

I've done PowerPoint and was done recently.

A suggestion that you could establish plots -- well, this is part of the decision.

And one of the things that is going to be monitored is four inch residual stubble height at the end of season and Nevada to get to the four inch stubble.

That may not be possible.

In a lot of places it is impossible there are different monitoring standards that will be followed for that.

It looks like, that's the end of that slide here.

So that's just a basic overview on the greater sage-grouse and that is, concludes the presentation I have to the board.

Summary of what I've been working on the last four months and continuation of what's been previous and I'd be happy to entertain any questions.

>> Fred Woehl: Thank you, Hope, I know this is a brand new role for you with a brand new job and you've done a very good job of catching up on everything and I appreciate it.

Does anybody on the board?

Go ahead, Cope.

>> Cope: Back to the principles of the 2012 rule the basis is to establish desired conditions and use adaptive management so if they're not meeting your standards within your monitoring you have a backup plan as to where you go next.

Can you tell me if you've not get four inch stubble height on HMAs if there are horses bringing that below the standards and if it could be a four inch, what's your plan to use adaptive management in order to reach the standards of the desired conditions.

>> Hope Woodward: That's still being worked out team is based out of the interregional office in Ogden, Utah. So there's a team of specialists in wildlife, range, other areas, watershed recreation that has also lead up to the signing of the rod. And so they're involved now in how to unfold this.

We have the amendments that came out of the record decision and now how do we answer some questions like you said?

So this is the first year of monitoring that they've set up the five plots of monitoring. I don't have that information yet.

Fortunately doing this poster helped me to engage with the experts and others working out of that team.

I don't have that information and I don't know yet if that has been determined.

And when you're asking about the 219, this is a process that is separate.

I mean, I should have made that distinction clear.

This about the sage-grouse monitoring and conservation is entirely separate at this point from my understanding of the previous information I presented about the management plans.

That are being worked on wild horse and burro territory.

I don't know, that is a question though within that, those -- any territories that are doing management plans that have greater sage-grouse is the one of the southern that is going through that 219 process and they do have some points that I reviewed their draft EIS.

So the answer is that it's not known yet.

But that's also something that I'm working on getting to understand and will understand that working with the forest where there is greater sage-grouse and bistate sage-grouse.

>> Word coming down from region four is that almost all the forests in region four will be doing major forest plan revisions in the next decade.

This is something that is going to come out.

>> Hope: That's a good point.

That's another area, I mean, certainly, I'm focusing on management plans and I have reviewed the plan, management plan that is just public comment period just ended on the DIS.

So that's another point then to engage with the region four and ensure that that will be considered in the plan revisions and understand how they go about that.

>> Thank you, Cope, dean?

>> Hope's decision is devoted to horses and burros whereas previously there wasn't a full-time position for that in DC.

She said something that is very significant.

She referred to a second memorandum of understanding that BLM and the forest service have drafted that's in the final stages of review and that provides better guidance about how our field offices about herds that cross territory boundaries and BLM HMAs and that's pretty darn significant because we have to work together. All of this will be done through local service first agreement.

That's an interesting development as well and past boards have emphasized the importance and I now you all feel that it's important that we work together and I want to work with that, and Hope, I appreciate working with you

>> Hope Woodward: Thank you, I have enjoyed working with you and your staff. It's been a really positive and productive really.

>> I have a quick question.

This is just for my knowledge.

Are there wild horses and burros on designated areas?

>> It's a really good question, Ben, I know there's a researcher who I engaged with related to wilderness and also talked to a wilderness coordinator out of region two and that's something that I haven't -- I posed those questions early on when I came on in May but I haven't delved into them.

I can review the e-mails and see the recent inquiry by research.

I don't remember if the name of the guy is Alan.

It's almost something like Shepherd.

But we have an Alan Shepherd here.

In terms of would the management be different?

It's some of the things that we've raised and discussed.

The brief discussions I've had about that is would it increase to the natural quality of the wilderness given the act.

I believe in the 1964, the wilderness act, one of the factors that we're considering when we review wilderness and doing management plans is there any violation or does it contribute to what is, you know, the tests, I forget what that's called right now is naturalness so that might be a contributor to naturalness.

There are other questions that you have is well, is that degradation to wilderness?

One, I don't know how many, if there are acres within wilderness wild horse and burro territories and if there were any kind of project or review of that area or forest plan revision and you're reviewing wild horse and burro in wilderness what language would go into that.

Thanks for reminding me and it was just this week that Alan's e-mail came about can we work on this.

>> Thank you, Ben, anybody else?

Thank you very much for a very good report and we look forward to working with you in the future.

>> Hope Woodward: Equally.

Thank you.

>> Fred Woehl: While we change speakers at this time is there anybody else cold out there. It's cold enough to hang meat up here.

Debbie, can we get something done?

I can hardly hear the speaker between Kristin and Sue's teeth chattering in my ears.

All right our next speaker we will have will be Ms. Holle Hooks who is the off range director or head.

She has threatened me several times this morning and so -- I deserved it.

So I'm just going to hand it over to her and let her just have at it.

Good to see I'm not only the one that has trouble with technology.

>> Holle: I'm not going to pride an update not only for the April meeting but other accomplishments and things that have been happening.

So this first slide just basically shows you an off range space update between our off range pastures about 31,000 off range corrals at 9300 which is down from our capacity.

And also wild horses and burros that are at sanctuaries.

Currently the capacity of the off range corrals is about (inaudible) animals.

We're relocating those animals to new off range pastures.

That have been acquired from our 2015 off range pastures solicitation.

Those are new awards.

From the off range pasture solicitation that we sent out in 2016, we're looking at making about a total between that and the FY 2015 solicitation, we're planning to make about 7 awards.

Two of those will be in Missouri and Oklahoma.

We figure there'll be about 600 new spaces by October of 2016 and then five awards between Kansas and Oklahoma for a potential space of about 5400 animals so this is all new off range pasture space that we're very excited about.

So that will take our existing ORPs, capacity from about the 31,000.

It'll bring us up to pretty close to 37,000.

One off range pasture facility that we're still looking at.

We're waiting to complete NEPA is one in Iowa.

We're still looking at that.

We hope to have all seven of them online and operating by April of 2017.

Eco sanctuaries.

We have some good things happening with them.

Currently they're holding about 580 animals and we have two in Wyoming and one in Oklahoma.

We're looking at those goals that I discussed with you all a couple types before about developing more educational and placement opportunities, holdings, adoption events and tours at the eco sanctuary.

This year, the Wind River eco sanctuary in Lander, Wyoming they held an open house and it was part of the Americans campaign and one in Oklahoma held their second Mustang mare than on June 11th.

In 2016 BLM did coordinate both of those events with eco sanctuaries and we have recently transferred the program officers duties from the states over to the Washington office.

And Scott is acting as the program officer at this time.

So this is just a couple of pictures of the actual open house that took place and the Wind River eco sanctuary in Lander, Wyoming.

It was attended by some BLM staff.

Scott and Debbie Collins were in attendance.

You'll see a picture here of the visitor's information center.

They opened it up and offered free wagon rides to the public so they could see the wild horses up close.

The event was scheduled until 2 o'clock but lasted until 4 because the public kept coming in.

We had some staff from the BLM Wyoming office as well asking questions about the program overall and the local tribal leadership attended the preview the evening before at the eco sanctuary so it was well-attended definitely coordinated between

the Washington office and the state.

I definitely appreciate that.

The ranch in Oklahoma, as I stated had their second annual Mustang marathon or Mustang run and it was -- it had barely 400 runners this year.

Last year maybe they had close to 200.

But they doubled it this year.

There were a lot of people there.

We got a lot of feedback regarding the excitement that the runners had about being able to run with the horses and being able to feel the hoof beat of the horses as they ran past them and it energized a lot of the runners so it was a really good event.

We continue with the ranch with the other activities they're looking at doing so we're hoping to have something coming up here pretty soon.

The comprehensive welfare program.

The off range corrals and adoption are drafting an IM to begin the implementation of the SOPs for that particular section.

This will be included in the development and the refinement of the training materials and we hope to be drafting the assessment tool as well.

The off range pastures and eco sanctuary's current status is also still drafting the plan itself of the standard operating procedures and the team is still working on the development of the assessment tool and training materials.

In the future, we would really like to start considering some type of standards for animals that are outside of the BLM in some of the training programs we have with our partners which would include the store fronts of the BIP trainers but also some additional compliance standards.

Marketing firm.

This was also a recommendation and something we identified a huge need for and did a lot of work with developing the statement of work of exactly what we were looking for.

We know that we have a very controversial issue and we also know that we have a product that we really want to be able to market well and find out ways that we can place more animals into private care as well as educate and aware the public about what some of the challenges, issues and mission of the BLM is.

So with that, we developed the statement of work and the solicitation actually opened on August 26 and closes on September 16 so we're right in the middle of it. In fact Debbie and Jason I think were answering questions late into the evening yesterday with some potential contractors.

Because they get to ask questions just for clarification and just to make sure they understand while they develop their proposal.

So ideas the solicitation will look at seeking the professional consistent marketing of some of the communication products so that goes from the animals while on-range and being able to communicate that as well as all the way into placing them into private care and titling.

We'd like to look at marketing strategies and hopefully they'll be able to get all the proposals in.

And they'll be able to review them and make an award all by September 26th so we're looking at working a lot in the next couple of years.

Of course the fiscal year is ending so we're moving and shaking to get this award in.

The adoption pilot program.

This also was something we really wanted to get accomplished this fiscal year.

So we did create what's called the statement of programmatic involvement and that

is a document.

It's much like the statement of work where you identify exactly what the need is. And it's related to an assistance agreement.

And we did send that paperwork over to procurement but as I said it's the end of the year and so there are a lot of things that, you know, maybe don't make it all the way through so we're hoping to be able to move it forward at the first of next fiscal year. One of the goals that we have is to at least have 100 animals moving out of these off range corrals into private care through this program and the incentive that will be offered will be looking at halter adopters adopting an animal.

Horse or burro and either halter training it or saddle training it and if the horse is seven years or older they receive title and they train it themselves is the incentive. Adopt an older animal.

Yes.

>> This is something that the board has made several recommendations on and part of the thing that the board really was interested in is making this for all animals not just seven or nine-year-old animals what is the major reason for doing the older animals.

>> We wanted to look at qualifications.

It's a little more difficult because we don't have challenges adopting younger animals.

We look at where the adoptions begin to decline and we did analysis on this and this is how we came up with horses seven years or older have fewer adoptions.

We looked at a five year trend.

And I actually think we have a graph or chart that I can get to you guys so you guys can take a look at it.

I shared it with Ben yesterday.

Horses that were seven years or older were less adopted.

>> I remember looking at the internet adoption that we just had and all the adoption events that I've done to the oldest horse has been six.

I mean, the purpose for the board making these incentive programs is to adopt more horses.

Not just targeted horses.

Because generally speaking, six-year-old and older horses don't go into the adoption program.

They go into corrals.

And I know for a fact that we have horses that's been in holding corrals for three or four years that have not been offered for adoption and the reason why I was told is well, we just have a certain amount of horses that we can send out.

They can't send out every horse in a short-term holding.

You know, we just don't have the trucking ability and all that.

So the board's emphasis was to make this program available for all horses.

Not just older horses, and I'm just asking why that was not considered more so.

>> I would like to add a comment here, Fred.

It has to do with having the income resources.

I think the board suggested that a 1500 dollar incentive would be appropriate.

You have to do this to get horses adopted.

They have to have them under saddle and here you go, adopter, 1500 bucks at the end of the year.

I think we think that's a good idea.

However when you calculate the math just consider the existing number we adopt.

2600 times 1500 dollars.

If I did the quick back of the envelope correct that's a 3.9 million dollar commitment that we do not currently have the resources.

>> The reason, any short-term holding corrals were paying over five dollars per head per day.

If you take that times 365 dollars that's a lot more than 1500 dollars so I don't see the affect on the overall budget.

We either pay it in short-term holding or for someone to take this horse into private ownership.

>> So if we could double the numbers of adopted animals then all of a sudden we free up the money to pay this incentive and I don't think we were that optimistic that we could do that as a result of an incentive being available and we have to take money from other things in order to pay out the incentive and that would be a commitment in the next fiscal year and we don't necessarily, aren't guaranteed assured to having that funding.

So that was our hesitation.

It's not that we disagree with the board's thought and when you look at the out year consequences of not having to need horses it works out.

>> The other thing I'm concerned about and I should probably keep my mouth shut because this is something very personal to me on this.

The skill set to train a seven or nine-year-old horse is a lot different than a three-year-old horse and the board has been adamant that we get these horses into private hands and get them off the system.

And if I was just looking at this and, believe me, I know the people involved and I have a lot of confidence in them.

But this is a ripe recipe to fail.

You know, I mean, I'm just being honest.

I mean, if I'm wanting to get involved with training horses and I get out and I have a seven-year-old horse, you know, a seven-year-old gelding that been running as a stud for three or four years and a -- you understand what I'm saying.

>> Absolutely.

>> Is there an evaluation process?

Because sometimes a seven-year-old is easier than a two-year-old.

It just depend on the horse and if there's some kind of evaluation process where you get in with the horses and you really kind of evaluate who seems to respond, who has a stronger flight instinct.

You know what I'm saying?

So -- an older horse can be worked with but, you're right, the young ones are generally easier.

But is there some kind of an evaluation process.

>> Our hope was with this assistance agreement that there would be an organization that would definitely be working one-on-one with that adopter and the animal that they adopted.

We identified an acceptable definition for both the halter training and saddle training that is also included in that particular solicitation that we would run so the organization would be clear about what the expectations are.

But would BLM evaluate the animal prior to adoption?

No.

That wasn't originally part of the plan.

That doesn't mean it's not something that can be incorporated but it is not right now

part of that plan.

So, Fred, I hear what you're saying.

We went back and forth a lot about this.

In fact, I think we've been on this adoption incentive pilot program for about eight months or so.

With a lot of back and forth between leadership and kind of their expectation and also assurance that the animals won't be adopted and then once they received the incentive check they, you know, sell them or the person runs off but that there's an investment made from that adopter but that doesn't mean it has between the ages of 7-9 as I indicated.

There maybe a conversation that we can have, Dean, if that's flexible.

>> As chairman of the adoption committee and wild horse trainer, I've trained about seven of them and off bunch of friends that train wild horses.

I don't know anybody that goes to an adoption facility and looks for a seven-year-old horse to train.

I mean, nobody.

So I have to back up what Fred was saying there in that if we reduce that age down to one day.

I mean the younger that you can get these wild horses and start working with them the typically easier it is.

I agree with Fred if we can low their down or just eliminate the age class I think we'll see adoption numbers rise and I understand there's also other circumstances but just my opinion.

>> We also follow an analysis from New Mexico where they had a pilot program.

They were offering mares that were six years and older and they were offering an incentive of five hundred dollars when you adopted them.

What they saw was it didn't increase the number of animals they adopted, but kept them from adopting the two-year-old stud or gelding.

The two-year-old animal here to adopt a six-year-old animal.

What we'd like to increase is increase the number of animals that we actually place into private care and maybe someone would make the decision, okay, well I'm going to adopt the two-year-old and I'll adopt the seven-year-old part of the adoption incentive program.

Of course we don't know but that was an analysis that was done about a previous pilot that was going on the last four years.

>> I am well aware of that pilot but there wasn't any training component to it.

And so, I mean, if, and that's a big part of this, is this training component as we've seen in must take Heritage Foundation horses.

This training point is a big thing about it what the approach was was not something that big.

But have them come back and demonstrate this training and that's when they got the check.

They didn't get it upfront or when titling.

They had to come back and show that this horse could do this.

And that was all part of it.

And you said you've been working on this eight months.

I've been on the board three years and this has been something that has been talked about at every board meeting that we've had.

Every board meeting that we've had.

And I appreciate greatly the steps that have been made but it's just like when you're

training a horse you set your horse up to succeed not to fail.

And using seven-year-old horses and nine-year-old burros in my humble opinion is a recipe for failure and I want this program to work.

I want it to go on.

I want it to be hand and hand in other programs that you and your staff have done and, you know, and maybe I'm too personally involved in this because this has been something I have beat the drum on ever since I have been on the board but I feel pretty strongly about this.

And so that's all I'm going to say.

>> I appreciate that, Fred.

>> I have a quick question because recently coming into this position permanently.

Was there a discussion?

Because I'm looking for an "and" solution not an "or".

Did the team talk about or do we have experience with a scaled incentive, some incentive for younger animal but a higher level incentive for an older animal knowing that getting the funding upfront to be able to provide the incentive we have to work that out but was there discussion of that?

>> Holle: We did have discussion about offering the incentive to all animals and I honestly don't recall because we had a lot of discussion between the solicitor and what would be allowable and how we would actually execute this program.

But I don't recall exactly besides the fact that we compared the New Mexico, the most recent pilot incentive program that we had and compared it and said, okay, we want to push more.

And more adoptions not just the 2700 basic, you know, animals between 0-6 years old but how do we get the older ones placed?

And that, I'm sorry, but that adoption analysis that, trend that I was referring to is what lead us down that path.

>> Part of what the board's plan was was different if you could bring the horse in and it was halter train you could pick up the need and you got X amount of dollars.

If you could ride the horse you got X amount of dollars.

It was kind of like that and part of it was, you know, I've been involved with this program for a long time and I have gone out and horses that had been adopted and I have done compliance checks for BLM.

I will go out there and look at this horse and it's been in the same halter with a little old lead attached for a year.

They've not touched it or anything and part of this is to keep from having that done.

And it gives them an incentive to do it and I'm not saying that we're going to pay them to take these horses.

A lot of these people that have adopted need horses are very passionate about this.

>> I was responding to the numbers where we have so many of the older animals in the corrals and long-term pastures.

You know, maybe having a little bit more incentive more folks to want to put into work on those animals and also responding to Ben's point that in general, given folks' choice they'll go for the younger animal but perhaps in addition, you know, as pilot, you know, does it work?

Does it work to offer maybe an additional incentive to, for someone to work with an older animal?

So I was just inquiring and curious about that.

>> Okay.

>> I don't want to interrupt but I just -- it's long enough to say that Holle's about

halfway through her presentation so at some point you may want to pull the rest of this conversation into the afternoon.

I'm not sure.

Just be conscience of it.

>> Dean: A little more math on this subject.

I do not disagree with this.

In fact it goes hand in hand with some things the director has talked about as far as a tax rebate.

That's probably pretty complicated to get legislation to support that.

But the whole point is to get people to adopt here.

The whole financial point is a 1500 dollar incentive for the existing 2600 getting adopted is 3.9.

I figured how much savings you have to have and how much additional animals to get them out of the corrals so you don't have to need them.

This means adoptions would have to ride to 4600 in the first year in order to save money to pay out the incentives on the first 2600 and the second 2,000.

That's a total of 7 million dollars and I just wasn't comfortable in advancing this and risking insolvency and now I think we should get more aggressive in asking for funding to support this kind of thing.

Because I think there would be interest in.

>> I'm sorry to be so dim on this but is this a pilot program?

Is this currently being done somewhere?

Or, Holle?

>> This is not currently being done anywhere.

This would be a pilot.

>> Would the pilot be done at some specific facility?

>> Holle: I think we would, not any one facility.

We would run the pilot for a year is -- was the original plan.

Because it's an assistance agreement we would be funding the agreement for a year and determining what worked and what didn't, making changes accordingly which would mean we would have to either modify the agreement from the grants management officer and if it wasn't a large modification it would be fine otherwise we would have to do another solicitation, an award, a second agreement for the future years.

>> Okay, because there's a wide disparity between holding centers and the BLM staff.

In my personal experience and that's mostly with Kansas City those past managers there were really good at evaluating behavior.

That would have been an ideal situation for something like this because I think they understood the individuals animals when they got in the pens with them and so forth.

That's why I asked that question.

>> Okay.

Go ahead, Holle.

Move on.

>> Holle: Just to wrap it up.

I don't know, Dean, if it is allowable to provide the SBI to the board.

If that's a document we could offer them some feedback on.

The team of course will be meeting.

The private care placement team will be meeting over the next couple of months and that's one of the things that we will be discussing.

>> I think certainly we can provide that when it's published.

We can check that out.

I don't know at print.

>> I'm sorry, Fred, but do I have one question.

Could there be some coordination and lowering the incentive to more conformed to the cost?

>> The cost saved?

>> Yes.

>> Yes.

>> And this would be more of a question from Michael because I'm not 100% sure what our average is for a year now.

But my guess would be that as long as we were offering an incentive that was less than whatever we're spending in a year then we'll see a cost savings.

>> So five dollars a day is 1825 dollars.

There was some alignment on that both in your part and my part as we discussed this.

>> It's very clear that I'm passionate about because I think it's something that we need to address it a little bit more.

We have seen proven example with Mustang Heritage of these horses when they are adopted they find good homes and they bring pretty good money.

Even though that don't finish in the top 25 or the top 10.

And, you know, I see -- I feel very strongly that this is not a complete answer and is probably just a small part of the answer.

But it is a good part of the answer.

Because of the public positive press and outlook and all that.

I take my horses to rodeos and shows and they got that brand on them and it is just incredible the amount of people that ask me and talk with me and all this about that.

>> As I said yesterday I think the path forward is a whole array of solutions.

It's not any one thing.

No way.

No how.

So maybe we can look at this, at piloting it in a certain state or in a certain facility to reduce the financial risk and liability.

Maybe we can consider that, Fred, obviously you want us to go back to the drawing board so, thank you.

>> Fred Woehl: Yes.

Back to her.

>> Holle: Thank you.

The internet adoption website is going through a little bit of a change.

We're looking at rebranding the adopt a horse website and modernizing it to the adoption programs overall.

A request for the proposals has been closed out and the it's already been identified and is planning to review proposals and recommend an award in the next 48 hours. I'm very excited about this.

This has been something that's been worked on for quite some time.

They've done a really good job with communicating with the NOC and the existing contractor and also the program administrator.

They worked together and done a lot of good work with the need to redesign the website as well as identifying what it should look like in the future.

They've also engaged the Washington office with some feedback and will be

reaching out to the states.

One other thing before I move on about that, a really good point about this is that adopters will have the ability to apply, put in applications online and this new website will also talk to our current wild horse and burro program system which is really nice. I'll just through that in.

So training opportunities.

We have the states leading the effort.

They are beginning to review the proposals that have been submitted and will coordinate site visits in the early part of the year.

So we're looking forward to that.

Family of Horses is another partnership where they are focusing on the burro incentive program.

They have placed over 150 trained burros since November of 2015 and some program assistance I was sharing with Ben and June yesterday that this particular partner has also assisted with some of the internet adoptions by going out to some of the facilities and taking videos as well as photos and uploading them to the internet website which has been extremely helpful to some of the facilities to the places that are overworked.

Don't have a lot of horses and don't have the skill sets of doing the videos and photos so that's nice.

Currently there's about 26 burros that remain in training.

So we're looking at possibly 176 placed burros for the year for a Family of Horses.

The Mustang Heritage foundation is another partnership regarding the animals in private care they place over 1100 trained animals and kicked off the program full blast this year which Kali will get into a little more detail about that.

They also ran the American Mustang campaign with the bureau management and provides educational and training and marketing assistance to BLM as well.

They have about 325 animals I believe that remain in training.

That will be potentially place this fiscal year.

So they are rocking and rolling.

We also have the correctional facilities that are partners, those are assistance agreement and some of them hold animals as well as train animals and offer them for adoption.

They place over 300 trained horse and have open houses.

This is a contract and there is trainings and place those into private care as well.

He also hosts adoption events with trained animals.

The adoption -- oh, sorry.

The adoption demand study, we spoke about this in previous advisor board meetings and you all met Lori Dickson who was a part of great lakes marketing who was doing this adoption demand study. Her findings will be submitted to BLM this month.

Great lakes will continue to be available to us for any findings on the report she submitted until about October 31st which is nice.

We will also be engaging with her over the next couple of weeks with the private care placement team as they move through these findings and reports.

The private care placement team which I mentioned to you all in April has met and has planned a larger meeting where they'll be able to take a look at not only the consolidated document that I provided to you at the last meeting but also the great lakes marketing adoption demand study findings and recommendations.

The goal is to submit a final report from this team within six months.

To leadership.

And to look at ways of moving forward and develop some type of implementation plan to have more consistency throughout the program and either update existing policies or create new ones that will take us out of the golden age of 40 years ago and place animals into private care and bring us up-to-date.

>> I'd like to let you know how much we appreciate you letting us have a board member seat on this.

On private care.

That's something we're really very interested in and we appreciate you working and including us.

>> Holle: This is not just one solution.

We have more -- people at the table who are willing to not just keep saying there's a problem, there's a problem, but they say there's problem, and I'm at the table.

I'd like to try to help you find a solution.

And lastly I wanted to take a quick look as of August 18th, 2016 we took an analysis of where we were in FY 14 and I'm not sure how well people can see it on your screen but you all have it in your books of where we were in 14, 15 and 16 at about the same time and you notice the increase of animals placed in private care.

We do have an increasing trend and we want to keep the trend going upwards.

>> Anybody have any questions for Holle.

>> Just in closing.

I want to state that dealing with multiple partners that we have advising board members that we've been able to successfully work together to increase working with the animals that are in placement into private care and that's just a really good thing overall. The American mustang campaign has been extremely successful this year and last year.

We also had a Livestream which I believe that Kali is going to give more detail in.

But we did a Facebook live of the American Mustang expo.

We had these educational workshops and they were well-attended.

We had BLM staff that was alongside definitely giving some information on not just how you adopt but what are the challenges.

We had some things on what is helpful and publicly I would like to thank that BLM staff so, thank you. Any questions for me?

>> I have one, Holle, would we check the numbers on your second slide, please.

It shows about 41,000 horses in holding and I think probably the number is about 45. So, anyway, could we check that, please?

>> Holle: We can but these numbers were taken from the most recent directory deputy department.

>> Maybe that's where the typo is. Anyway.

Let's check it, please anybody else have any questions for Holle.

>> Yes, I have a question.

How do you plan on using the extra space that has been provided by the increase in the number of offerings of pastures.

Will those horses be transferred from the short-term and made more available for new animals from gathers and how does that coordinate with the amount of funds that are made available for gathers?

>> The 5400 potential spaces that we're looking at acquiring by April 2017, as well as the 600 spaces I mentioned from our solicitation that's a total of 6,000 spaces and the plan is to start moving animals from off range corrals into these off range pastures because they are most cost-effective but there's no plan at this time and Jared will get more into that but there's no plan at this time to increase the number of

animals that we're removing in any one year.

The hope is to continue to remove the number of animals that are placed into private care and that's the balance that we're looking at main taping right now.

>> Thank you.

>> So if I could add to that, the animals being moved out of corrals are they elderly animals?

Those seven or older and we have a whole bunch in corrals that probably don't have a chance of being adopted.

>> I have a question, Holle, how do the finances work with the eco sanctuary and how does that compare to the off range corral.

>> These are assistance agreements and the off range corrals are all contract. So there's a per head per day cost associated with off range corrals and the eco sanctuary is not.

They operate with different educational components as well as the animals there it's not a per head per day basis.

>> Thank you, and huge are the contracts typically for for the off range pasture?

>> Well, there has been authority given in appropriations where wild horse program can go up to ten years in contract.

But some of the off range corrals.

I believe we only have one that is a ten-year contract.

I'll have to check that.

And as off range pastures we have several of them with five and ten year contracts. You're welcome.

>> Fred Woehl: Anybody else.

I want to make this clear, just because Holle and I are friends.

When her and I have these little things it's not personal.

It's not like that.

Is it, Holle.

This is not the first time we have had something like that.

I love this woman.

She's really passionate about what she does.

So, and I appreciate you a lot.

>> Holle: No problem.

Thank you.

>> Fred Woehl: Now to the other one that's dear to me.

Herding is fine.

We have made some changes.

So after we hear from Mustang Heritage we're going to take a break and move the discussions up to after the break and move everybody else down because we have people that are not going to be here that want to take a part and I think we need to accommodate them.

And so we will, I'll talk with you further about that but I just wanted you to know and we're not going to cut anybody short if we have to go longer than the break, we're going to do that.

Okay?

>> Okay, you still hope to take a break at 10:05?

>> Fred Woehl: We'll take a break as soon as we hear from Mustang heritage, their full report and answer any questions.

>> I'm going to go over a couple of slides with you.

Thanks again for inviting us, I've been to a few of these over the past ten years and

it's always an honor to come back, thank you.

The Mustang heritage foundation has been in partnership for ten years.

This will be our ten year anniversary with BLM.

Our mission is to increase the placement of excess horses and burros which we mean in holding.

We have over the past ten years placed over 7,000 animals, horses and burros into private care.

Mostly through our training and gentling programs as Holle stated we have started an educational program as well which we'll talk about in a minute.

But most of our focus is training and gentling and getting the horses adopted or sold through those avenues.

History, real briefly here in 2002 and bylaws were created.

2001-05 not a lot was done in all honesty.

Just putting together board.

Going over some research that had been done for BLM and then in 2006 entered into the first assistance agreement and we are on our second five year assistance agreement with BLM and hope to continue that in 2018.

2007 was our first event make over following that with the trainer incentive program.

2013 came mustang millions and then 15 America's mustang and then '16, the store front program was created in 2016 but in 2008 but wasn't a public program that people could vote on it.

We have a board of trustees here.

Paula, and Randall who work to keep me on task and help me to keep staff on task.

We have a relatively small staff or to some maybe a large staff.

There's ten of us between full-time and contract.

Everybody on our staff is very passionate about what we're doing and I think has a lot of fun doing what we're doing and working on these programs.

So very thankful for all of them.

Again, BLM partnership, like I said, has gone on ten years.

I have a little note in there about Nevada.

We have been to Nevada with two extreme mustang makeovers and in 2008 we had a youth Mustang event which is very exciting.

As you can see here we're serving our ten years this year.

So it was ten years, ten cities ten times the extreme.

So we visited ten cities this year with your mustang make over event.

This is probably what we're most recognized for.

It's not where we get our big adoption numbers but it is where we get a lot of our media support and things like that which I think brings awareness to our other programs obviously.

Next slide we're going to talk about a couple of numbers.

2007-16 you see on the left went through where we've been over the past ten years with extreme mustang make over so we went to 22 states, 1500 unique trainers so that means people who have continued or competed once or twice and 3,000 of those are through the extreme mustang make over.

We have 33 animals sold.

Ten events and there were 400,000 annual YouTube views.

I'm going to go through each of those individually.

271 are adoptions.

So mostly mares and geldings five to seven years of age is what we focused on this year.

And the breakdown of that I know we talked about earlier.

When we started in 2007 our agreement was focused on three-year-old geldings from Nevada.

So we focused on as Nevada horses only.

Since then we made strides in our programs and this program is especially open to really anything.

Anything that is adoptable or still eligible can be put into the program.

But what we did starting 2016 is working with the sales program which is, I was explaining to Ben yesterday.

It is -- it's a benefit to mustang heritage foundation but not -- to us, a horse is horse as far as that's concerned.

We're getting a horse placed either way but the program for us is a cost savings more than anything.

It doesn't have to do with any of the training components.

It's more of a dollars and cents thing as far as getting those animals sold where the people can come and they leave with a bill of sale from the mustang heritage foundation essentially taking that horse off of the need bill saving taxpayers.

Hopefully we can use the sales program even more with the extreme mustang make over.

Of our ten events we did use eligible mares so that's where the 33 animals came from there. The 400,000 YouTube views is a combination of videos we do throughout the event.

We'll do one or two throughout and then a nice follow up YouTube video.

One thing that's not on here is that most of the extreme mustang makeovers where possible we do try to invite BLM to come out and bring some wild horses so we try to make a space that's suitable for them to come out and hopefully take advantage of the public and the people that we're bringing out.

So that they can either advertise a local facility in some cases like in Reno they can advertise the valley and get the most bang for all of our buck as far as getting the people there and learning about what we are all trying to do.

I'm not sure, Debbie may have those numbers.

I'm not sure how many were adopted.

Typically they bring a load, you know, of mixed animals and try to get those adopted. Horses and burros.

Our natural attendance, during the day Friday and Saturday we typically have two or three hundred kind of in or out.

Our Saturday night attendance is about two thousand which is really good.

The first five or six years we were probably at 800 to a 1000 and over the last two years really all of our numbers have started to increase.

Adoption averages, attendance.

Adoption numbers, etc. Our adoption averages right here.

I have this at 1300.

Some of you may keep in mind is our Florida event that we had in May.

We had 24 mares that averaged 3150 which is amazing.

Usually our average was around 5-800.

Where we had some that were a little higher.

We're seeing upward of 7,000, 8,000 being our high adoptions and not a lot of 200 or less.

Seeing a lot of 3-800 dollars but it goes to the intent of increasing the value of mustangs and of the trainers and the work that they're doing.

Getting these horses prepared for adoption.

I put under there our sale averages and that's the average of about a thousand dollars.

The question that June had yesterday and there's been question about where does the adoption money go?

The trainers do receive 50% of that and the other 50% goes back towards the program, so it would just go to offset money that BLM will be putting towards the program.

And that includes T-shirts, tickets, adoption, etc.

So any program goes back to pay for the program to lesson our draw from BLM.

Just some little stats under there what we've seen in 2016.

We seen an increase in first time trainer participation so the word is definitely getting out there.

I think a lot of sit mouth to mouth so trainer to trainer also increased outreach.

That's really referring to America's mustang campaign.

Some of those were held in conjunction with the makeover so we're able to add those demonstrations and seminars.

Increased spectator involvement.

Why try to improve the time and Byron does that at the events where he will facilitate a question and answer between potential adopters and the trainers will bring them out and have them in there for about an hour where they make them available to the public to answer questions about the horses that they'll be adopting out.

2017 you'll see in a minute that we're going to have fewer events but focus on more trainers at those events and try to do some increased education.

The next one is our tentative schedule and this is our tentative schedule events pending that budget approval.

We've got the first one will be in January and that's one that we put on mustang heritage foundation independently of BLM funding and it's really important to us to continue to try to do some of those events that we can do on our own without relying on BLM to cover some of those costs.

So this will be on with your website probably October 1st.

I'm going to turn it over to Byron.

Byron spends time doing a lot of things that spends a lot of time on the trainer and program.

.

>> Questions on the make over thing?

>> Thank you Kali and thank you for allowing us to present today.

Again, we'll talk about the trainer incentive program created almost ten years ago now.

Really excited about this program we're seeing exponential growth in every area of it. Currently this year we placed 861 animals.

Those are both horses and burros of all ages, all sex, which do include a few sale of horses.

This is about a 40% increase from last year so apparently we placed 514 horses.

You'll see 155 horses through youth programs.

Specifically horses 18-24 months of age.

124 of those horses were through our tip store front program which we'll cover next.

Again, 41 burros.

We did add a new interactive map on our mustang heritage foundation website that's interactive where potential adopters can go on there and find trainers that are in their

area.

And this has been really nice, these trainers are really kind of our boots on the ground little marketing machines out there in each, you know, location.

They're creating relationships with feed stores and with riding clubs.

So that's been a really nice piece for what we do as far as gaining exposure for wild horse and burro adoption programs.

Right now through our new and renewed signups we have 440 approved trainers.

This is nearly a 100% increase since last year.

Right now, the map that was on this slide's not fully updated.

But in the continental United States there are three states that don't have the assigned trainers.

Florida is currently where we are seeing the most adoptions.

Part of that is due to a successful store front.

California hosts the largest number of trainers.

That's 60 trainers.

And a few things that we did see increased which part of -- partly was due to our store front agreement created in Colorado were tipping horses in the state of Colorado and there's currently about 25 horses in that program as well.

Just a quick overview on tip.

It is a trainer incentive program.

These trainers are inquiring at their own cost.

At the time of adoption they're incentivized per animal.

They are required to achieve some minimal gentling requirements which we do have some parameters in place to guarantee that the trainers are doing that.

We are also communicating with the new potential adopters.

We do have a new Facebook page for the trainer incentive program for the trainers to be able to advertise these gentled animals and all this is at a cost of 125 dollars to the adopters so very, very successful program.

>> I've been a TIP trainer for almost ten years and this is really one of the best programs that there is out there because it's really good.

I keep up with every TIP horse I've ever had.

I can show you pictures of them with kids on them.

It's really cool.

So I encourage everybody that is a trainer or is interested this is a program where you can help BLM and help mustang heritage get these horses into private hands and a homes.

You know, someone asked me, well, just one or two horses.

My comment is, how do you eat an elephant?

One bite at a time and get a bite and get it done.

All right.

I'm sorry.

I just had to say that.

>> Byron: It's absolutely true.

We do have the store front program that we're fixing to talk about but a lot of these trainers are adopting one or two animals a year.

When you multiply that by 440 trainers that's a big piece of the adoption program and we are on track to adopt out over one thousand horses in fiscal 2016-17 through the TIP program alone.

We're really excited about it and trying to find innovative ways to make it successful.

With all of the programs we're seeing these trainers getting lots of exposure through

either extreme makeover or the training program and actually become part of the industry, become activated in the horse industry and specifically mustangs in this case.

>> Byron, real quick.

With the trainer incentive program I see that there was some sale authority horses that were also in that.

Can you explain how the process works for the sale authority horse for the program?

>> So sale authority typically, you know, it operates the same way through the TIP program.

They pick up the horse, they meet the gentling requirements.

The adopter at the time of adoption has the option to adopt that animal and go through the twelve month title process or they can get a bill of sale for that animal and receive a title at the time of adoption when they sign the PMACA or, in this case it wouldn't be a PMACA or a bill of sale.

Really the only difference is the adopter is getting the title.

>> Have you gotten feedback from the trainers on whether they prefer that adoption or would they prefer sale of authority horses.

>> We do have a storefront.

In general I haven't heard a lot just within some of those -- just one or two time trainers.

We do have a store front trainer in Florida who does -- has found some success with this sale of authority horses and has requested some and I think it's just the adopters are just catching on the fact that they can and like.

Most of the comments are just people are hesitant to know that BLM could come on their property for some reason.

I don't know whether they think BLM are going to do but that's okay.

They're just a little bit hesitant and also to, you know, any other, you know, in the equine industry you go to purchase an animal you leave with a title.

At sales or any kind of purchase, you leave with a title.

It's just customary and sits well with people.

They're familiar with that process.

>> And I do think that there is potential to see, like an increase value in the sale authority animals especially through extreme make over but at this time we haven't seen any real difference as far as training or desirability.

We'll move on the store front.

The TIP store front program was created in 2008.

This year we did a big push on this for various reasons.

One was to increase the number of animal to TIP trainers in the United States where there are fewer holding facilities.

Also increase the availability of wild mustangs in the eastern states anywhere.

So with the store front agreement, trainers sign up through the TIP program, they go through a BLM compliance check to make sure the facilities can handle large numbers of horses.

Typically they start with ten, a minimum of ten animals and what this does, again, it gives us another injection point for the animals.

It gives us another place to provide animal to other TIP trainers and just increase the visibility of live animals in eastern states.

We also saw an increase in store front facilities in the west as well.

But our goal is to spread the store front program in the eastern states specifically.

So currently through store front we have 124 adoptions created through fiscal 16.

We have 11 approved and active facilities currently and five facilities waiting for approval through this agreement.

This is the reason for the increase.

If you get the monthly adoption reports from mustang heritage this was the main increase for adoptions in Colorado.

So the process for becoming, again, a store front trainer, a store front facility, you do have to sign up as a TIP trainer.

We'll read you the TIP store front program guidelines, make sure it's a good fit.

They do need to submit a form to us.

That goes through a second review.

BLM will do a site visit and then we will coordinate between the new facility, mustang heritage and BLM as far as getting logistics.

I do think we have a video from one of our new store fronts in Colorado.

If that will load hopefully.

And, again, store fronts are not been great just for adoption numbers and availability of horses but provide another educational format and greatest scape has been really, really passionate about educating the general public about wild horse and burro adoption program and are facilitating a lot of adoptions in a short amount of time.

>> (Video).

>> Byron: Are there any questions about TIP or store front.

>> This is something we talked about in the past and we encouraged BLM last year to increase the number of store fronts and we -- Kali and I had this talk and on behalf of the board we appreciate BLM being and Holle and Debbie Collins, and you, Kali make thing happen because this is the way to make it forward.

>> Kali: If you are watching and would like to get involved.

Let us know.

>> Byron: Next is an effort taken on by mustang heritage.

It's currently run by private donations.

It's an eight week program where military veterans come out three days a week and do become adopters and adopt wild untrained mustangs and we facilitate a program for them at our facility in Georgetown, Texas, it's at no cost to the veterans and no cost to the BLM.

And currently we started this program in 2013.

As a pilot program.

And wanted to just see, you know, what the potential was there for a long time.

It's been known the effects or value of pairing at risk groups or underserved populations with horses and it's been seen as an organic thing like Roy Rogers said it's good for the inside of a man is outside of a horse.

But my focus over the last three years is to be able to have this organic program that's scientifically based.

Primarily most of your programs out there involve therapeutic riding and as we know wild horses do not lend.

Through therapeutic riding on untrained horses.

What we found is really -- it is a therapy program that's experiential veterans from all war areas are allowed to engage in this program and it's about building connections with the horse.

Building relationships.

Most of the veterans that were seen come through the program.

You know, they're not looking for better balance or better use of a prosthetic or

anything like that.

They're just looking for peace, comfort and increased value in their relationships whether it's intimate relationships, perpetual relationships, or just friendships in general.

And it's been really neat for us.

It's quite an intimate program for the mustang heritage staff.

We actually get to have wild horses onsite and get to be a part of this adoption process.

And, for me, you know, personally it's very rewarding.

We have basically a government managed horse.

And a government managed human.

And both are in need of a new skill set in order to be productive.

And what I found is that there's a huge difference between being a citizen and having citizenship.

That's what this program does for the veteran.

That's what the adoption program does for these wild horses is gives them citizenship.

They're American citizens already but without these new skill sets, they don't -- they're not productive.

They're not adding value so that's what we're seeing out of our program that it sound like I'm tooting our horn a little bit but I am.

Because our value -- or our veterans are coming out of this program with increased productivity.

So whether you believe in therapy or not they are -- they have increased productivity.

I mean, by is that, the we have veterans that have actually gone out and bought small ranches after this program that were not part of the horse industry in any form in the sense of the word that are now involved in the adoption program.

Some of them have boarding facilities.

Some of them now just offer their services in backgrounding mustangs and that's really neat for us to see and be part of and they are continuing to come back and help with this program.

Currently we serviced 30 veterans on the adoption side of our program so we have 30 veterans that have adopted horses in this program but then we have lots of residual effects through our partnerships with other groups where they come out and have a one or two day experiential event there onsite.

That's something we're excited about.

As far as the future of this program, if you just address PTSD alone we currently have three hundred thousand vets just from Iraq and Afghanistan wars that have been diagnosed with PTSD.

We can offer hopefully a true solution.

Not a treatment.

>> Okay, I'm going to take it back over.

As Holle mentioned in 2015 we did start the Americans mustang campaign.

For us it's really exciting to be able to do this.

We spent the last before that eight years really just focusing on training and gentle ing mustang for adoption.

We got to really dive into kind of making information available for America so they can realize why we are doing even what we're doing.

Not only, you know, the situation and what BLM's facing but also what is the point in a purpose even for the extreme mustang make over or the trainer incentive program

and why is there an emphasis on training.

So hopefully that's what we're doing and what people are taking away from these American Mustang events.

The other thing that I, you'll see at the bottom some of the activities that we've done through America's mustang and Holle mentioned a couple mustang marathons in the eco sanctuary.

Really what I hope is we're providing an opportunity for BLM to even engage the public more and to even engage some of these partnerships that they have beyond MHF so they have the eco sanctuary partnerships and things like that.

Given an avenue and an opportunity to have a different type of relationship with them where they are invited and they come out and able to provide information and hopefully we've set that up for success for them and for us as well.

So it benefits us through extreme mustang make over and TIP.

The more team that learn about everything that is going on is really a benefit to all of us so the main focus again is, education.

Allowing people to come out, gather information, and then make up their minds on where they want to go from there.

And how they can get involved.

This year we had three, what we call America's mustang expos.

Arizona and Missouri.

In Missouri we were fortunate enough to have the team that's here doing the Livestream come out to Missouri and Livestream some of your arena classes and the demonstrations as well.

We had over 1100 Livestream views.

Just over those two days which may not sound like a lot.

We were really happy about it.

It took us awhile to get everything approved and up and going so we really didn't have a lot of time to advertise.

We were really excited about those numbers and I know those will just continue to grow if we can do some Livestream next year.

13,000 website page views and that was just those expo page views.

I didn't do overall the whole website.

And then the national events which include the expos.

Above all else just hoping to engage the public more in what we're doing and trying to accomplish.

The next slide here.

Not to be confused with the Livestream we also did some Facebook live.

That really launched kind of couple of weeks before we went out to Missouri so that was our first attempt at Facebook live so between the three events and probably five to ten different live sessions we had 7,000 plus views which is huge.

And what most of those were we did some adoption how-tos.

We had BLM there talking about the adoption process and talking about the wild horse adoption or things of that nature so the other exciting thing that we did in Missouri which was really well received was the demonstration to show the process.

It's a misconception and people don't understand what is all involved so we had BLM staff on there who were qualified and able to do a really good demonstration for us.

Which the public seemed to really enjoy.

So part of our goal for 2017 is just to include a lot more of that kind of educational opportunity for the public that may not be able to attend an event or adoption and learn what it's all about.

2016 in review.

We're looking at 1200 adoptions as through the incentive program.

57 million dollar annual savings to be BLM and taxpayers and that's when compared to the FY 2015 cost of 48,000 dollars.

In that, again, is just for 2016 so if we took that 7,000, I'm not a mathematician.

I'm not sure how much that would be but it's a lot of money and we're really proud of that fact and we're proud that we can facilitate programs that are not only what we considered successful but also very cost-effective and we're excited about the next ten years.

We really enjoyed the past ten years and getting ahead of myself.

I have a 2017 slide.

125,000 Facebook fans as of today and 600 active and passionate trainers so you saw on a previous slide we're at 1500 so this 600 is really a true twelve month active, I say passion.

I think anybody that does it is passionate.

I take liberty in saying they're passionate.

But 600 trainers that are passionate.

Looking ahead.

You know, obviously, you know, looking to increase adoptions.

This year, we have increased adoptions at about Byron said 40%.

30% overall so in review, I guess, for us, it's working.

I think, you know, looking at having done this for ten years and having these programs for ten years is very encouraging that it is growing and increasing a lot of times you would see the opposite so we're really excited about the future and the possibilities that we have through the partnership with BLM and other organizations. Like we saw with greatest scape and other groups that are really passionate about trying to find a solution to what we've got going on here and I understand personally and we at mustang heritage foundation really understand that we're really just working in one part of this big problem that you have and but it's fun.

We enjoy it and we like to see progress and we feel like we're doing something that's very, you know, successful in getting horses placed, so we're humbled and honored we're able to do it.

We're excited about the next ten years and really look forward to it.

>> Questions?

>> I notice on your schedule you do not appear to have an event in Nevada next year I attended the one in Reno you had in June.

It seemed to me it was very successful according to your figures you more than doubled the amount that you did last year.

I was just wondering what your reason for that was.

>> We're still in negotiations with them.

We just don't have an agreement with the one in Nevada or California yet.

In Nevada we're working on dates whether it's the same weekend or next week.

I'm hopeful that we can make it work.

It's not off the table.

It's just not confirmed.

>> Thank you.

>> I had a quick information question for my own sake.

Do you have professionals with the veterans?

>> Byron: Your program started as train the trainer type deal.

We're currently trying to form a partnership with a group near Austin that can provide

the professional therapy.

>> Great.

I think they would find it great material to work with.

Yeah.

>> I just want to say thank you for putting all the passion and hard work and creating this big beacon of, like, hope.

And, you know, the BLM and the program there's so many sad stories and there's so many, you know, it's kind of a gloomy situation and, you know, to see these wonderful success stories and this positive branding that you're doing for wild horse and burro program just doing wonders for everything.

So thank you for that.

What can we do as an advisory board or as the BLM to help you facilitate your adoptions and raise these numbers from one to two thousand and make it bigger and better and get more horses adopted.

>> Thank you and thanks for some of your beautiful photography that we've been able to use for a lot of our marketing.

Yeah, as far as moving forward, I put a note on here just, you know, we're working with BLM to improve the course selection.

I talked about that a little bit at the last board meeting.

But just continuing to work together and I say continue because we are and we do have a successful and positive working relationship but we all realize that it is important that if we are going to put all this time and effort into, you know, putting these horses into training, having these trainers literally do it for free, that we want to set everybody up for success so it is important for us and BLM to use our best and brightest as we should for any adoption event or any program.

But, you know, there are some very quality, you know, highly adoptable animals out there.

And we want to make sure that we're using those for this kind of high profile event. Above and beyond that it's just continued support and that goes from the top down. Support at the corral.

Support at the national level and also at the corral to support with, you know, helping TIP trainers and adopting and encouraging them.

Just that customer support and ensuring we continue to improve that on both ends. And funding.

Not so fun to talk about but we'll do as much as we can with what we have and try to make it as cost-effective as we can.

>> Fred Woehl: Thank you both very much.

It's been a good report and it's a positive report and sometimes in these meetings we don't have a lot of positive stuff but this was one.

>> Kali: And thank you for your support.

Debbie did bring me a note real quick and I really I work for Debbie so I need to make sure I say it.

Whenever I was explaining how the adoption income all evens out at the end, whenever we have an extreme listing make over event and the horses are adopted if it's an adoptable horse we take 125 dollars off the top and that's paid back to BLM for the adoption fee and the 50% comes after that.

The 50% to the trainer.

I want to make sure that is clear because we have had questions about that.

>> I got to say one more thing before we break is the fact that Byron's a tough old cowboy but he talked about that horse and he kind of broke down a bit.

It's tough, isn't it, buddy.

>> It's just a testament to how passionate we all are no matter what our vision is when it comes to horses it involves passion.

Thank you, guys for being passionate about it as well.

>> Thank you.

Kathie, let's reconvene at 10:30.

Give us a ten minute break because we're behind but we don't want to stop anything. All right?

(Break).

>> Thank you all very much, the meeting will now come back to order.

At this time there's a change in the agenda.

We're going to have our working group report and we're going to talk about some of our proposed recommendation.

We have some folks that have to leave early.

I'm trying to get this out of the way it's one of those things to where -- even though you have a schedule, we need to be able to adjust and adapt and go from there, what we're going to do next is have the working groups get a report from them.

Their proposed recommendations.

Going to have board discussion on them and then we're going to vote and see what recommendations we put forth.

Now we have an hour and a half for this and if we don't get through we will break at lunch and then pick this back up at the end of the meeting in the regularly scheduled time or past that.

We'll -- everybody out there in Livestreaming land this meeting may go to 6:30 or 7:00 and part of that you won't be able to hear because we have set time but I'm sure it'll be in some place in internet land you can find if you have to.

I'm trying to spend a little bit of time because the co-chair is supposed to be the one chairing this and she's not here.

And so -- if I have someone who is capable of using a dart gun we might see if we can go get her.

Dart her and get her back in here.

But you -- I'll share a poem with you all while we're waiting.

All right?

There's nothing like a mustang between your knees, one that's light to the rain and willing to please.

Together as one until the day is done on a mustang you'll find your way home.

The world is brighter when I'm up on this throne that's strapped to the topside of muscle and bone.

Beneath me a friend on whom I depend.

On a mustang I find my way home.

You know luck is fickle and the day is long danger is quick.

Purpose and song on a mustang I'll find my way home.

When my trail has ended on this plain and the angels carry me away.

Please carry me home on a good honest gray, on a mustang I'll find my way home.

Thank ya'll very much and we still don't have Sue.

So we'll just go ahead and start.

The first working group we're going to hear from will be the resource group which is chaired by Cope.

Cope, what I ask you to do is introduce the ones on your working group and the floor is yours.

>> Cope: Although I chair it we do open the doors.

This is one of those things.

This is such an important working group that we certainly don't want to disallow or shut out anyone with valuable input.

>> Fred Woehl: Let me ask this, do you have Steve on the line?

On the phone?

>> Would you call him, please?

>> What's his number?

>> Three.

I have no idea.

Small town.

>> Fred Woehl: Steve is our board member who can't be here so we're trying to get him on the phone so he can have a part of it.

>> You can just put him on speaker.

>> Okay.

>> Cope: We had an interesting discussion and several topics came up that we discussed in depth that we haven't really hit that far before.

Largely due to the impressions we had and what we learned on the field trip on Wednesday.

Where it became so obvious that it was quite incredible crisis situation out there affecting the resource.

It opened the conversational doors to where as we said yesterday, when we heard the consensus overall from the people in public content it has become highly apparent that we're past the time to be talking about, thinking about and we're into the time that something's got to be done.

We're -- the emergency is real, the degradation and loss of resources are all too occurring, all too evident.

And although some of our recommendations may not be popular and may be controversial, we want to put everything out there because we definitely feel that there are no options we can totally ignore at this time.

The crisis point is to where anything can be done needs to be done.

So from a resource standpoint, you want me to go into recommendations from here Mr. Chair?

Our first one, here we go, guys.

BLM should follow the stipulations of wild horse and burro act of all long-term and short-term holding deemed unadoptable or for sale with youth phase is a.

These animals should be held in the most humane way possible.

BLM is totally unable to clear the excess animals off the range.

They have nowhere to go with them.

We can't take care of the ones that we have and there's the recommendation impossible to implement at this time.

But if you read the intent, the letter and the spirit of the wild horse and burro act it states clearly that the secretary is achieving a thriving natural ecological balance on the public lands and to protect the natural balance of all wildlife species that inhabit such lands particularly wildlife species.

It goes onto state specifically that excess animals shall immediately remove excess animals from the range such as to achieve levels.

Such action will be taken in order of priority until all excess animals have been removed so as to restore the balance with overpopulation.

It goes onto say that the secretary shall cause additional excess wild free roaming

horses and burros for which an adoption demand by qualified individuals does not exist to be destroyed in the most humane and cost efficient manner possible. In states of an excess animal that meets criteria in paragraph one shall be made for sale without limitation including auction to the highest bidder to livestock selling facilities until all time excess animals are offered.

This isn't going to happen.

We know that.

But we also think that the secretary, the director and Congress should be made aware of the severity of the problem and the resource degradation and how bad things are getting on the range.

At this point we're getting off of that as recommendation.

Knowing full well that it can't be fulfilled as long as the rider remains on the interior appropriations bill.

It's an option at least that really needs to be protect and considered sometime in the future.

I open the floor for comments at this point.

>> Cope: Can you clarify that again?

Exactly what -- at the beginning, before you started reading what the act said.

What did you say?

I'm not sure everyone was even --

>> You mean the recommendation itself.

>> Do it slow so she can get it.

>> We have an extra copy too somewhere.

It stays that the BLM should follow the stipulations of the wild horse and burro act. Those are what I read there. By offering all suitable animals in long-term and short-term holding which are deemed unadoptable for sale without limitation or utilizing humane euthanasia.

Those animals should then be destroyed in the most humane manner possible that is the letter and the intent of the original wild horse and burro act.

>> I certainly -- Hope helped create the wild horse and burro act and I know that wasn't her intent and she was one of the creators of it.

I understand exactly where you're coming from but I don't believe that that's what they ambioned when they helped congressionally work through the wording of the act.

>> One of our purposes in this is hopefully gain enough attention where congress will do something to allow some sort of solution to be reached.

But at the moment with the rider in place, I don't think the BLM has I options other than keeping horses in long-term holding that are now consuming two-thirds of the budget and creating a bottleneck.

We have the scheduled amount of horses round up and removal for the next three years is while we're increase somewhere from 10-20,000 a year.

That's not going to work, guys.

Somewhere along the line you got to make room to pull them off the ranch.

>> I don't know whether it'd be appropriate to add this at this time but since horse space has been made available for long-term holding, could we ask that they put more pressure to increase the budget for -- because I think that's what has been holding up the number of animals that they can gather is because they don't have the funds to do that.

But I realize it would be an additional cost as far as putting them in long-term holding.

But it would also relieve pressure on the land which is what our number one priority is and so if they could remove more horses, you know, from the wild, it would put less pressure on the land.

>> Absolutely.

The problem is right now we're roughly 40,000 horses over.

We're talking 1.6 billion dollars.

>> I don't know if you want to add that to the recommendation or make that as a recommendation but I would like to see them put some more pressure to get more funds to do more.

>> The thing that we've heard today is that the length of time it takes to do these solicitations per off range pastures takes a year or more.

I mean, I would be okay with putting in here BLM should do what they said or provide adequate off range facility to care for these horses or something along those lines but the length of time it would take to get that done, I mean, it wouldn't --

>> Well, it's going to take some time to get congress to approve the money too.

But I don't know, maybe, Holle, maybe she could tell us again how many spaces, I think that she indicated that there were some areas that would be available soon with some later.

>> Steve: Should I intervene here?

This is Steve on the conference.

I think just with the sheer number and volume of horses that our in need of being gathered in the dire circumstances that are facing starvation and death by thirst on these ranges.

We've got to do something with the animals that are currently in long-term holding facilities.

To do nothing it may possibly be the cruellest thing we could do to the horses indefinitely.

Because of the effects it will have on the horses and on the range and what they call their homes.

And so I think that we should move forward with this motion and at least perhaps at this point in time it's not a recommendation they can act on but hopefully we can get enough of Congress's attention that they don't that either and at some point in time they can utilize this recommendation.

>> In response to June's comment I think she's absolutely right.

I'm not even sure we need a separate recommendation on those lines because we've said before you got to do more with them but the very fact that we're coming up to say you got to get rid of them.

They will stimulate Congress to say that's not acceptable so what else can we do and at that point I think they'd be much more amenable to possibly appropriating more dollars.

If you start with that I think they just blow you off and don't worry about it.

But if you say, well, what do you want to do then?

Maybe there's a chance of getting some dollars out of them.

>> Well, and I think the main purpose of that is since it seems to be the focus of not only what the public has proposed but what we have as well is this -- the viability of the land.

And just -- (no audio).

>> Bedrock upon which our wild horses and burros depend.

Our wildlife depends and our rural communities depend.

We've got to unplug the pipeline.

>> Well, and that's true.

But, you know, I mean, that's not going to -- it's not a lot of horses but, you know, you got to start somewhere and, you know, and even though it may not be enough supposedly to make a difference but it would be a start at least.

And since, you know, when you talked about the budget and the time and what, you know, Fred had said, you know, it would take awhile to do that so maybe it would be coordinated in time as far as when it could be budgeted as well as the space be available.

>> The big conclusion we've reached after a lot of discussion is that the situation has become sufficiently dire.

We decided that, you know what?

We can't afford to throw away any option.

Distasteful as it may be.

We really came to the conclusion that we had to at least be able to consider any possible solution.

This is probably the least socially palatable of any of the options we have come up with but it is an option.

>> Do you think, I'm just thinking out loud, that something like this, being put forward. Might stimulate June, private entities that would think -- I mean, won't agree with this but would stimulate them to maybe take on more of these houses to keep them from something like this?

>> June: Well, and I don't know how that would work but, you know, I -- would be open to anything that would help any way that it could be used and I don't mean to disregard anything that the committee -- I'm not on that committee.

As said, I know they worked really hard on that but it just occurred to me when Holle had reported that they had that extra space which you may not been aware of at that time.

>> So, June's suggestion is we have pasture space and the number Holle talked about was 5500.

So that's 6,000 spaces and, yes, if you move old horses out of corrals like we intend to the pastures then you save some money so 6,000 animals from corrals to pastures.

You don't save that whole amount of money.

It's probably about two bucks per feed day so two dollars times six thousand horses times 365 days is a savings of 4.3 million dollars and I think I eluded to in my opening remarks we're going to move that to on-range activities.

Let's say we're going to do removals.

Let's remove more than 3500 like June said we could.

Let's take that savings and ignore the removal cost.

It's going to cost BLM for every thousand animals not adopted, so let's say we can adopt 3500 or those that go out of the system by natural mortality.

Let's add another thousand horse to that.

That don't get adopted.

That's a 1.8 million dollar equipment on corrals so the bottom line here is the 4.3 million dollar savings would need about 2300 more horses removed not adopted in corrals so it goes a little way to removing a few more but considering the 40,000 in AML.

>> Proposed resolution says that all the horses in long-term holding, and if I looked ahead at the budget correctly, that budget -- that share of the budget is 17 million dollars.

So it's not four million dollars.

It's 17 million dollars saved.

>> Yes.

Your proposal would be but I'm talking about the savings accumulated by BLM by acquiring 6,000 spaces that Holle talked about.

Moving 6,000 horses.

>> Yes.

It's not quite as much as what we need, is it?

>> Just to add to that we didn't say all of them.

We said all suitable animals.

Those that couldn't be sold or that were unadoptable.

>> And I think you need to be able to recognize, too, that the sales without limitation, really gives an opportunity for wild horse advocacy groups to put their money where their mouth is when it comes to taking care of the horses.

It's their horses that would be deemed unadoptable.

But see continued on.

What an idea to have them acquire pasture spaces themselves to put on the ground towards taking care of those animals that at least said they wanted to protect.

To do so with their own funding.

And enable the BLM to take care of the land and the range resource and the horses that utilize that resource in way that is in line with the duty that's been given them.

So I think that's something we need to consider too.

>> Two points.

Going on with what Fred said, even though you may think that 2300 horses or whatever may not make that much of an impact but at least it would say BLM's trying to do something to alleviate it.

And also I don't have my calculator but maybe Dean can help me.

We are, our association actually purchased 20 horses in from short-term holding.

So I don't know what kind of a savings that would be if you calculate that.

Every little bit helps.

That's 36,500 dollars per year.

And those horses were all 11 years or older.

>> And you're only the workgroup member we haven't heard from.

Do you have anything to add to the conversation?

>> Thanks for putting me on the spot, Cope.

>> You haven't answered yet.

>> I'm -- you know, I'm 27.

And I'm going to be dealing with public lands and land management for hopefully the next 50-60 years of my life.

And it kind of pisses me off that I've been inherited or I've been given a bunch of messes.

And what I saw, you know, on that range then that we went and visited and other range lands that I've gone to see is one of the biggest, you know, ecological disasters that I think we're going to face.

You know, in my generation, which is invasive species coming over and taking over native range lands.

Diminishing biodiversity and making it really difficult for native plants and animals to make a living.

I really want to think that we can adopt our way out of this.

I have adopted seven horses.

I've gotten hundreds of them adopted.

But, you know, it's just not realistic.

You know, for me, my ultimate goal with the wild horse and burro program is to have a target population that is controlled by birth control to slow the population growth so that whenever gathers are necessary they equal the adoption demand and to get to that point, I don't think that we can get there without euthanizing or selling horses. And, like, it kills me to say that but if you really want me to know how I feel, that's how I feel.

And I wish it was -- I wish that wasn't the case but, you know, I've seen PZP, I've adopted horses and I've just, you know, that's the end goal that I don't think we can get to that end goal whenever we're spending two-thirds of our budget on hay and if we can cut off that hay bill and spend that money on on-range management and, you know, habitat improvements then I think that 20, 30, 40 years down the line my kids and my grandkids will greatly appreciate us passing along a better rangeland than what I foresee in the future if we do nothing.

>> Thank you, Ben, as ya'll can see we did not jump to this quickly.

This took a lot of serious discussion and heart rending decision making and finally reached the conclusion that this is what we were going to offer as a recommendation and throw it out there for the powers that be to look at.

>> I want to bring up one more thing.

Knowing that this can't be done, is there a lot of benefit in making a recommend like this.

>> There could be.

Remember, there's already been talking in Congress of descending a rider in the interior appropriations bill.

This may be something if it gets enough attention may sway some congressional members whether it's to act or change the policy.

Our ultimate objective here is to let people know in positions of the secretary of interior from congress down there's a huge problem and a disaster already upon us that's being ignored and we can't ignore it any longer.

>> Fred, I think this recommendation is a way of taking the public and congress on our field tour.

It's a way of telling them that what we saw is truly, truly serious.

It's an emergency.

It can't wait.

And I view this resolution as way of taking them on that field true.

>> Steve: One other thing I think that needs brought up too is we talked about the cost savings and incorporated with the horses off to the range.

How -- I don't think discussed as much as it ought to.

I know it's been touched upon on some of the meetings is the cost incurred by the range degradation that has already and continues to occur and I don't care how much money you throw at that problem, money alone can't fix it.

Even the regions, the best you're going to do is to get an introduced grass to grow in those and we have several ranges where we tried that three times by drilling it.

Unsuccessfully.

On our own ground and so your native grasses such as Indian grass and your shrubs, salt brush, those things are next to impossible to get to seed even if you can and when you take upon when you consider the grass and all the other introduced annuals that are out there will crowd those young seedlings out before there is ever an opportunity for them to get started.

You're talking about a resource that when it's gone it's gone.  
And you can throw a billion dollars at it at that point in time.  
It's not coming back and it won't in the lifetime of my children or my grandchildren or Ben's grandchildren.

It's something that we need to consider not only for the wild horses but also for the livestock, also for the wildlife.

The sage-grouse and everything else that utilizes that range in its pristine condition.

>> Madam Chair, I leave it to you if you want to talk about this or move onto the other three on the block.

>> We'll take a vote.

A voice vote.

Starting with Ben and we'll come down.

>> Ben: I vote in favor of this recommendation.

>> Aye from me.

>> Aye from me.

>> Steven?

Steven we're taking a vote.

>> Yes, from me.

>> Can you repeat that, sorry?

>> Yes.

>> Absolutely not.

No.

>> June?

>> Yes.

>> Yes.

And I'll vote yes.

The motion is passed.

>> Second recommendation we have would that be permissible to move on.

They're a little less controversial from here on.

BLM should prioritize sage-grouse habitat.

BLM should also use degree of range degradation as a criterion for excess animals and those should be given to those lands most amenable to rehabilitation.

That one I think is pretty straightforward as it addresses prioritization for sage-grouse habitat.

>> Could I explain the reason for that?

We all know that BLM has a clear mandate to protect and deal with horse conflict in the sagebrush focal areas. This language changes it to all the designated sage-grouse habitat.

Not just sagebrush focal areas. That's the primary intent of this.

We already have recommendations with respect to compatibility with the sage-grouse law but specifically BLM has limited wild horse and burro protections to sage-grouse focal areas this is an effort to expand that and what you saw with the various maps, lots of the degraded ranges that we're talking about here in Nevada are designated primary and general habitat for sage-grouse.

But they're not sagebrush focal areas.

>> Any other discussion?

>> I would like to see it a little bit better.

I mean --

>> Oh okay.

>> I just sent it over.

>> Okay.

>> Can you just read it again, Cope?

>> Cope: BLM should prioritize sage-grouse habitat for removal of excess animals. BLM should also use degree of range degradation as a criterion for prioritization of that removal and consideration should be given to those range lands that are most amenable to this.

>> Based on what we heard I'm talking about this Bureau of Land Management, BLM has until I think 2020 to have that is their goal and if we don't do something like this they will be -- I'm always of the opinion and if we can do it our own self or if board meeting can do it it's better than having somebody force them to do it. Does that make sense?

>> Absolutely.

What it amount to is if we don't get it squared away we'll be forced to list it.

>> Based on that part right there -- I'm through.

>> There's a sad acknowledgment in that recommendation.

That last sentence, consideration should be given to those ranges that are most amenable to rehabilitation recognizes that some of the range lands are beyond recovery.

And I know you've heard that and maybe question whether that's true but it -- this is an attempt to ask BLM let's save what we can because it's already past time for some of those places.

>> Are you ready for a vote?

>> No.

No.

Hold on.

Do we have any idea what this looks like?

I mean, we're -- how many acres?

How many herds?

How many animals this might impact?

Are any of the herds you're talking about genetically on the borderline or not?

They're not very many animals in there of historic or genetic irreplaceable quality?

Do we really know any of that.

>> I'd like to address the genetic viability if I could.

We heard a lot of that in the public comment yesterday.

I did a little research and talked with Alan on that is we talked about raising those AMLs from double digits from 100 to 150 to ensure genetic variability.

I've seen cattle that didn't bring in new breeding stock and expanded their population using the existing stock.

You didn't increase the herd size with the genetic base.

How high do you have to ensure those numbers?

And according to what I heard that magic number is not 100 it's closer to 5,000.

At that point the word we got yesterday is if you want genetic variability you bring in outside breeding stock and that seems to be the only logical workable solution.

>> Cope, I'm just going by many years of working with Dr. Kathrens since 1994 and if you look at his reports and his conclusions, I would certainly go with the science from him.

I understand you're talking about like IUCN recommendations when they're talking about huge populations.

I'm talking about the minimal recommendation from the foremost equine geneticist in the United States.

>> I have also done extensive interviews with Dr. Kathrens and according to Dr. Kathrens there's been no signs of genetic breeding depression of horses in the last --

>> Ginger: That's certainly not correct if you look -- that is certainly not correct and I respectfully would disagree with you on this if you look at -- I have in my office boxes of vials on the genetic reports.

He warned it on the priors.

He expressed significant concerns over our burro populations so I certainly respectfully don't agree with what you just said.

>> Cope: Just setting back and thinking about what's going on it's very clear that horses are not an endangered species because the sage-grouse is and the sage-grouse takes priority over everything else and few understand that right as far as getting the habitat back to where it needs to be to keep the sage-grouse from being an endangered species is that correct?

>> There has been a movement ahead of some groups who want to have the sage-grouse listed as an endangered species due to lack of habitat.

We can go to the ins and outs of West Nile infection and predation and all the other parts but habitat's what they're concentrating on what an official wildlife standpoint. So the lack of preservation on the habitat will count very seriously in litigation as to what needs to be done to protect the bird.

>> May I say one more thing?

>> I'm trying to get this in my mind.

Decision has already been made that the sage-grouse, for lack of better way of putting it.

Just putting it in good old Arkansas terms the sage-grouse is more important than the horses right now.

>> That's not what it means at all.

The sage-grouse represents the habitat that supports it and this is an act aimed at preserving the sagebrush step and the hundreds of species that depend on that system.

It's not about birds versus horses that's way too simplistic.

>> If I can put it in terms that this old Arkansas boy can understand.

The canaries in the mind are the sage-grouse.

>> Pretty much the focal species rather than the bird itself we're concentrating on the bird's habitat.

That's the real focus.

>> So if we had a healthy range we would have more sage-grouse.

>> Maybe.

There are variables that aren't addressed but what is true is the BLM is mandated under the recovery plans to reclaim the sage-grouse habitat.

Right, Dean?

>> Dean: That's our goal and we placed our marker down and that's our commitment and we prioritized the habitat and to the sage-grouse focal areas as the highest priority habitat where the most birds are and the next priority of habitat and then the general, we are committed to taking care of those habitats.

>> Cope, I'm wondering if the recommendation can be more nuanced.

Simply to vote on something here without seeing maps and knowing what we're talking about.

I'm thinking about the Adobe town conflicts in Wyoming.

And also the people that manage those areas and wild earth guardians that are

located south of that and western watersheds and the conversations I've had with them and I've talked to them about wild horse population in specifically that area and they said, you know wild horses really aren't a consideration.

It isn't -- compared to livestock raising and a disruption from mining, at least in that area, that is more of a concern than wild horses.

Whereas the populations are much smaller than they are on what we're seeing in Nevada, so I'm just wondering if we might be a little more nuanced in our approach.

>> If you're using western watersheds as your standard for what you're going to do I will assure you that will raise livestock raising more important.

>> Was it wild earth gardens you specifically singled out there?

>> No, western watersheds.

>> My latest conversation was with wild earth guardians and disease --

>> Okay.

>> Knowing that it's certainly not in a state from our tour the other day.

>> Can I try to clarify something?

This recommendation is not meant to -- I'm going to use the word usurp, it's probably a bit strong.

Usurp BLM's current priorities where it's a priority first, court order is second.

No, health and safety is second.

Anyway, it's not meant to replace any of these items in that lineup.

It's just trying to add this one onto the lineup.

>> Get it down at the bottom of the list.

>> Well, and correct me, Cope, if that's not exactly the intention here.

>> The intention here was to give BLM some guidance in their development of their policy for habitat restoration and preservation for sage-grouse, does that make sense to you, Dean, as far as what we're trying to say if and the way we're going at it?

>> Yeah, clearly sage-grouse habitat management conservation is our priority and the encouragement to have work in the accomplishment of that is right in line with where we're trying to go?

Kristin, any other comments?

>> You said it well.

Thank you.

>> Would you be able to say whether this would impact, you know, the areas I was just talking about?

I mean, I really don't know.

>> I think the issue you're referring to is genetic diversity and there are recommendations in the report that aim at managing not at individual herd management area basis but because of the concern for lower numbers and genetic diversity conservation they recommended that we manage for meta populations or I'll use my words larger groups of HMAs as aggregate.

And they even said where HMAs were isolated that BLM could introduce genetics from other herds.

So their aim as genetic conservation and they called attention that you don't have a lot of burros and they called attention to the other herds like the Pryors and those known for their Spanish mustang.

Es.

What I'm trying to say NAS was trying to push us away from the genetic conservation and saying to measure bigger groups which sets aside the concern for genetic diversity.

>> I actually was looking at specifically the wording of this when it says BLM should use degree of range degradation as a criterion.

I wasn't talking about genetics.

I was really talking about areas that certainly don't look like what we saw on our tour.

>> So I think that could be clarified a bit too because it implies to me that those have been -- those habitats that have been degraded and maybe pass passed restoration you can read that.

You were saying are the habitats intact and we have desirable ecological condition that haven't crossed a threshold to annual plant in an irretrievable states I think you're aiming to take actions in those areas first and I think you can clarify and make that a little more clear.

>> I think if you add the degree of range degradation on designated sage-grouse habitat.

And then as the priority?

>> What it says at the end there, most amenable to rehabilitation.

That means to me that they already kind of have been significantly degraded.

I get what you mean but I think the wording could be a little more clear.

>> What if we added this kind of language?

Consideration should be given to those range lands that can be maintained in a healthy status and/or are amenable to believe restoration.

>> I would suggest we say restored and maintained.

And the degree of range degradation can go both ways.

If it's degraded to the point of not recovery there's no point in pumping effort into it.

If it is degraded and it has a chance of coming back and making the restoration work effective that's where we talk about concentrating.

>> And that fits because I think Kristin, also an element of sage-grouse management is restoration.

>> As well as fire and invasive species.

>> So, Cope, your two words really do nail it.

>> I'm wondering do you want to say i.e. priority consideration should be given or just simply consideration?

>> I want to leave the scientists to help make these decisions because I don't know that that's really up to this board.

I mean, I think our job is to get the intent out there.

>> I would agree.

At this point it's redundant.

>> Anything else?

Discussion?

Are we ready for a vote?

We'll start at this side this time, June.

>> I think, can I abstain?

Because I just don't feel like I'm knowledgeable enough on what this would entail to make a determination one way or the other.

>> Perfectly acceptable.

>> Yes.

>> Yes.

>> Yes.

>> Yes.

>> And I'll vote yes.

>> Steven.

>> Yes.

>> I'm sorry, Steven.

Ha, Steven.

>> Yes.

Sorry.

Yes.

>> The third one that we developed dealt a whole lot with the effects of the overpopulation on communities in the west and range health as it apply to community health.

And the bottom line we came up with was, BLM should develop partnerships with economic agencies and/or department to conduct an analysis of socioeconomic effects on communities with -- it should be with in there reduced AUMs on herd management areas due to range degradation resulting in burros.

Further analysis can be conducted by the potential removal from all livestock from all HLMAs.

I think this would fit well with the universities or the local economical development associations to find out what the effects on these western communities really are and how badly they're being hurt at the moment and what would happen if you took all the livestock off of the HMAs.

What would be the socioeconomic results?

We're not asking BLM to do this but to develop this with the economic associations and things of that.

>> This would just be for information purposes?

>> Absolutely.

When we do this, I said this before, NEPA and all the EIS requirements absolutely mandate socioeconomic analysis.

My experience is they tend to be pretty long on the socio and pretty short on the economic and I think this would be an effort to really look at some actual influence not only the social effects although they're important but the economic effects as well.

>> Just to kind of share I know a common frustration for all of us, as we, the board, sometimes feels trapped in this argument about cows eating the grass versus horses eating the grass and quite frankly it gets very tempting to kind of want to separate those.

They're out on the playground so we can look at just how exactly it works when it's just cows and when it's just horses, so I would kind of share with you that this is part of trying to deal with that frustration because those two issues are so very difficult to separate.

And I think looking at this stuff -- behooves us to say let's get all of the horses out of the way and the cows and vice versa.

That's not the proposal at this time but I think we want to look at what is the really socioeconomic situation with those interactions?

>> Didn't I say that --

>> My comment is that I remember a passport member, Kelly Hendrickson encouraged and desired the very same thing that this recommendation aims at. And my response and answer at the time was that will occur when we do the programmatic environmental impact statement but that's been set aside.

So this is an alternative means perhaps to achieve an understanding of the economic effects of some of the things at stake here.

>> The board is on record as far as supporting programmatic EIS.

We did that a couple of meetings ago so what you're saying then to me is that this would actually effectively do about the same thing.

>> In the absence of the programmatic statement yes, it aims at that and if we pursue that maybe an analysis can be absorbed into it.

I don't know about that but if that or a symbol potentially could.

>> I think this is something that state departments of commerce might be interested in.

I see absolutely no reason to say that the land grant universities wouldn't be interested in and it I assure you that economic development associations definitely should be.

It's something the BLM could do at very little expense.

>> I don't know how much it would cost but some alternative suggestions to get to that information.

>> Cope, are we presupposing that if all livestock were removed from all herd management areas and we know that's a pretty small percentage of BLM managed lands.

There wouldn't be any kind of alternative plan for -- we've -- I haven't talked about it as a board member.

I've talked about it elsewhere.

Some compensation.

Some alternative not thinking very clearly right now after the first recommendation.

Excuse me.

But there wouldn't be some alternative things that would be compensated for and I know others have made comments on this.

>> We talked about that in the past but I don't think anyone's ever done the economic analysis because obviously compensation without production lowers the economic multiplier.

We know that.

If the guy that's raising cattle still gets paid the same amount as he would for raising them no longer has the cattle all the people he's paying don't get paid.

The other part that we need to look at is if we got just retiring the permit.

That's a one time payment.

If you do it on an annual basis now you're depending on appropriations and I think all of these things should be analyzed with those variabilities in mind.

That's what we're talking about.

>> Thank you.

>> You ready?

Anymore discussion?

You have something to say Ben or Steven, are you still there?

>> Yes, I'm still here.

I think it's just enough.

>> Do you have any other comments?

>> No.

I just -- would vote in favor of the proposal.

I think it's really good one and I think it gives us some real objective information to work with that right now we don't have.

And I think going forward with the all the decisions that are made with the BLM it would be an opportunity to have that information ahead of time.

For the various NEPA and IES studies that will be conducted in the future.

>> Thank you.

>> One thing I'd like to ask.

I don't know if this is the right place to do this or not.

But BLM should have partnerships with others for socioeconomic effects.

I wonder if we can also do a similar partnership other agency study to conduct environmental effects.

You know, how much water is being produced for the hay in short and long-term holding pens.

You know?

What are the costs of restoring range lands back to their former state.

Do you think that could be incorporated.

>> I have no problem adding that after socioeconomic and/or environmental.

Does that suit what you're trying to say?

>> Yes.

>> That still work for you, Steven?

>> I think that's next in point.

You know, we've talked a lot about the range on resource and I think that that would give an opportunity to delve into that as well because there's -- I think the socioeconomic impact is made when the range deteriorates past the point of restoration and also with the cost that is incurred when you do have a restoration program for keeping range in the state and the condition where you want it to be to begin with.

>> Anyone else.

>> I don't know whether this belongs in any kind of recommendation.

I know there's little to be done in the areas I know of in the poor economic driver of communities as well as horses and specifically the ones in Wyoming and obviously the ones with Pryor Wisconsin and I don't know whether that will be in here or something that's separate and apart.

That would be an interesting point as well.

>> I think those data are inherent with what we're trying to do.

>> Yeah.

Either way.

>> I'm a little bit familiar with engaging agencies to do this kind of analysis and their job is not to presuppose where you want to go with this information.

So they should look at both ends of the spectrum and they will look to see the benefits and the pros and cons of these different scenarios.

>> I appreciate that, Julia, so you say potential removal of all livestock and or all wild horses or not.

>> Hey, look don't you think we stuck our neck out enough here?

Because that is not where we're going to go today.

>> Well you said our objective.

>> That's in excess.

We're not even talking about removing all wild horses.

That is not the place the board has ever wanted to go because the AMLs are established and all we want to do is reach that to where we have the sustainable number of horses in those allotments that we can work with.

We don't want to eliminate them.

>> Okay.

Okay.

>> I see what Ginger is trying to say is you could incorporate that into the study by deleting resulting from overpopulation of wild horses and or burros and leave it at

reduced ALMs so that the scientists when doing the research aren't predisposed to think that that degradation came from wild horses or burros.

>> The trouble with that is now you're confusing the wild horse issue with the fire issue because we're certainly going to have range degradation in a lot of places in the upper snake river valley where there's no horses but severe degradation due to fire and that's where we're going to stop over and lose our focus of the committee which is the wild horse population.

>> Well I might be a little slow.

You know, I've been told that before but isn't a horse livestock?

To me, I didn't know they were separate.

You know, so you could just take out overpopulation of livestock and --

>> Replace that with sheep and cattle?

>> Well --

>> Or domestic livestock.

>> Well livestock is basically anything with four legs, isn't it?

That's raised.

>> Wildlife doesn't count.

>> We're not talking about wildlife, there's no way.

What I'm saying is where it says that HMA due to range of the degradation of livestock.

And potential removal of all livestock a horse is livestock.

>> Fred, Fred, you're showing your age because that very -- it was very true where we came from and the times we came from.

But that is not true today.

In society.

Horses have moved from livestock to pets.

Socially in the United States.

>> It's already pretty explicitly states in the wild horse and burro act it's not livestock and burro act.

It's --

>> Burro is livestock too.

I'm an EIA verifier and I am certified by the live stock and poultry commission.

>> Fred, would it help if we put domestic in front of livestock in the last sentence?

>> Yes.

>> Correct.

>> Yeah.

That helps.

>> According to the wild horse and burro Act wild horses are not livestock.

>> I agree.

>> So I would not put that in there.

I mean, livestock clearly are cattle.

They're not wild horses.

And I suppose there could be domestic horses that might be doing range degradation.

So according to the wild horse and burro act they're wildlife.

>> I'm not even going to go there.

I'm sorry.

If wild horses are wildlife you'd have hunting season.

>> Not necessarily.

We have a lot of wildlife -- I think the intent here is the name.

And, Dean, does that give BLM the intent?

That's all we're looking at.

>> I think I understand it.

I think you're saying if we have overpopulations of wild horses and burros and that affects domestic livestock grazing on public lands what are the economic effects of that and the environmental effects.

That's what I think you're saying.

>> That's where we're going.

>> Yes.

>> Dr. Cope, are we ready?

>> Absolutely.

>> Any other discussion?

I think we're starting with you, Ben.

>> Recommendations made of the committee?

>> Voting on this recommendation.

>> Good morning.

>> But that's after this.

>> Yeah.

Yes, I think this information would be very beneficial to have.

>> Cope?

>> Yes.

>> Julie?

>> Yes.

>> Yes.

>> Steven?

>> Yes.

>> Ginger?

>> Yes.

>> June?

>> And I'll vote yes.

>> It's unanimous.

>> We have one more and I'm going --

>> Whoa.

Whoa.

Whoa.

>> Before we move onto the next one I would like to clarify my vote on the first recommendation.

So that I'm not misunderstood.

I certainly do not agree with euthanasia in a random not undocumented way.

In looking at the health or welfare of the horse itself, there seems to be to me to be a difference in whether you want to see a horse die on the range from lack of water or forage which is a very, very tragic death in relation to a, what's that word is that we use?

A more humane way of euthanasia.

>> I think we all agree with that, June.

We do have one more but I'm going to turn this one over to Dr. Weikel to go over that one.

It's pretty much hers.

>> Kathie, I don't have this one on a piece of paper so I'll try to go kind of slow.

BLM should encourage state agencies and BLM racks to develop and submit for

consideration their plans for herd management and range rehabilitation tailored to their specific areas and HMAs based on local knowledge and expertise.

>> Why state agencies?

They don't answer to BLM or anything like that.

>> Oh, we may want to wordsmith that a little bit.

What we meant was the state wild horse and burro collective group.

So because we all know and recognize that the on the ground people have a lot of expertise that maybe doesn't make its way certainly to us.

We saw lots of it on our tour.

And we also saw that racks, some racks are willing to get involved in this issue.

If you look at the way racks are supposed to be set up, they're supposed to respond to an issue when BLM asks them to and so this is a way of asking for participation from these other advisors and we all know that Dean's in very good and close contact with his field people in the different states but there's a lot of variability from state to state in how the local wild horse and burro team perceives the solution to their problem.

So we would just like to empower them a little bit to be willing to speak up.

>> State agencies can include the state fish and wildlife.

Conservation districts.

Water districts.

There are a lot of agencies and entities out there that could contribute to the potential solutions that aren't just the BLM racks.

>> Again, I might be a little slow but submit to who for consideration for what?

>> I think we're talking about ideas that the BLM could implement to help range rehabilitation and herd management.

>> So submit ideas or to develop and submit ideas for range --

>> They're plans.

They're submit for consideration their plans for herd management and range rehabilitation.

>> To the national BLM.

Is that right?

>> Yeah.

To the BLM.

Sure.

That'd be fine.

>> Okay.

All right.

>> And I think so long as what Cope said, I think with those other agencies we incorporate there's a lot of expertise that can be found upon by including the agents that work at the various agencies.

Incorporated by some of the states and the counties that they represent, I think there's a vast amount of knowledge that can be utilized in doing program like this.

>> Now actually I'm not trying to pick anything apart but I'm trying to get this in my mind now.

The local BLM rack, do they submit stuff to the state director of the BLM for their state?

>> I don't know if they are right now.

They certainly could.

>> Well then so what I'm trying to do is make this where it will actually be feasible and realistic.

The way this works and I understand it's a chain of command that the local racks need to do this and submit their plans to their state director or whoever they answer to for consideration and forwarding or something to the national funding or something.

You know, guys, honestly, I have problems with doing recommendations that can't be done.

Just for the fact of doing recommendations.

I personally have a problem with that.

And it kind of bogs down the system.

>> You feel like this is a recommendation that can be done because I certainly do.

>> I do and I think it's one that needs to be done but we have to word it in such a way where it can be done.

I mean, you know, we need to word it very specifically I think.

That's just me.

>> Well --

>> Fred, could I share some experience along these lines?

So I've been for a few years on a rack that had submitted some recommendation to BLM at the national level.

The rack by definition cannot give their advice to anyone but BLM.

I mine, they are BLM advisory committees.

And I faced a huge swell of support for submitting the Oregon plan to state legislatures, governors, etc. and had to resist that because by definition it's already defined who a rack is offering their recommendations to so I don't think there's a problem about where this goes.

Very clearly it's meant to be empowering these people at this level to be sure and talk to the bigger picture.

But specifically about their piece of the pie because it's different from state to state.

>> Well, again, I'm from the east and we don't have -- we don't have racks back east.

The only racks we have back east are on DOL.

That's why I mean, someone back east when they get this -- and they look at it, I mean, they're going to -- submit their plans to who?

You know what I'm say something we have to make this where the -- everybody can understand these recommendations.

If they're going to be -- maybe I'm wrong.

>> Dean, do you think the BLM would benefit from this recommendation?

>> Kind of.

I want clarity in your recommendations if you follow through on this.

I think what you're talking about are local groups, the racks and agencies.

We're already required this consultant with wildlife management agencies but local groups.

You want them to submit their ideas for herd management and range rehabilitation strategies.

I think that might be clarified rather than saying plans.

Plan means you got a plan and you're going to implement it.

I think we're talking about strategy ideas.

We're talking about a concept.

>> Could we also include into this recommendation that not only state agencies and BLM racks can develop and submit for consideration their ideas but at NGOs?

>> I had that thought too.

Everybody in the audience, everybody has ideas for strategies and when they come

into play is when we have land use plans and when we get more site specific herd management plans so it is not like everybody doesn't already have an idea. An opportunity to input through those processes.

That's the formal official process.

People give input but what I understand this to be is Washington office, you ought to be thinking of a national strategy to get a handle on why would horse and burro management and here's, we would like more local input and your consideration in developing policies for strategies.

That's what I understand you to mean.

>> This is kind of an extension of the phrase to think globally and act locally.

>> Exactly.

And notice that the word says encourage.

There's no requirement that any of these groups have an idea of submit it.

>> No, but accept this recommendation if you propagate it is BLM will reach out to racks and state agencies.

There are multiple state agencies.

So, I don't know, this is pretty global, Kristin, do you have any thoughts?

I'm not objecting to this but --

>> What's running through my mind is what do we want to do that improves on the current land management planning process?

Which it does allow for that local input when we're talking about wild horse and burro management.

Is there a desire to have a supplemental planning effort happen?

Which then I would wonder if -- how would people respond if, let's say, their ideas and their desires require more money and we didn't get the money do they feel they can't respond.

I want to make it something people feel like they're going to get something out of it that they're not getting now.

>> Aren't they already doing this?

I know I visited with Bill, the chairman of the local rack and he told me that they meet and they do this.

They developed and gave us their ideas.

So they are already doing this.

So why are we making a recommendation for something they're already doing?

>> Because it's kind of unusual for racks to have done what the Oregon rack did and what Bill's rack did and this is just kind of a way -- but if you look carefully at the law that creates racks, racks are to respond to issues that BLM asks them to respond to. So a rack on its own, although they kind of have a history of making their own little issues that they want to deal with.

I looked carefully at that language and we asked designated officials to bring us problems they want to work on.

We don't over -- originate these ideas in a rack because the law says that.

>> For my clarification because I've heard both state agencies and then racks.

We -- you very well articulated the rack process.

And a recommendation could be that BLM continue to outreach to get output on the burro issues and we also continue with state agencies as part of our business.

So, again, other than reaching out to racks, and enhancing maybe what we do with state agencies, do you envision something in addition to that?

>> You're looking at me because -- no, but what I have -- it was, no, I just had rack. You're the one who added state agency.

>> Take out state agencies.  
>> Because that really was the idea was to try to encourage those areas that have wild horse and burro issues to ask their BLM, their rack to get involved if appropriate.  
>> Should it include BLM?  
>> Is there anything and this is for my own information is there anything gained from making the recommendation that already isn't being -- currently being done or do you think that there is a lot of this already taking place.  
>> Please correct me if I'm not speaking well on what you're trying to do. People found it positive that we had the rack representative here and the engagement and the intent could be to encourage and expand upon that.  
>> Exactly.  
And remembering that racks, by definition, are created to represent the interests of that local area and they're not all the same some have a mine or timber or a wild horse and burro rep.  
They don't all have a potential interest to public lands on their rack.  
They have the ones that are significant for that area.  
>> Are you ready for a vote?  
>> Okay.  
Which direction are we going, Ben?  
>> Yes, I approve.  
>> Yes.  
>> Yes.  
>> Yes.  
>> Yes.  
>> Steven?  
>> Yes.  
>> Thank you.  
And I'll vote yes.  
>> I believe that is the end of the work sources regroup.  
Thanks goodnd goodness.  
>> Did you want to say something.  
>> Time to go to lunch.  
>> So we won't start another workgroup discussion until after lunch.  
Back to you, Fred.  
>> Very interesting.  
What we're going to do is break for lunch and then we're going to take back up and we're going to finish up these discussions after we get through with our --  
>> -- presentations.  
>> Presentations.  
They'll go to the end.  
And board members, if we're here until 8 o'clock or 9 o'clock we'll be here until 8 o'clock or 9 o'clock.  
I just want ya'll to know that.  
>> And the other thing you want them to know is we will start at one.  
>> We will start promptly at one and, Cope, you have to be here promptly at 1:00.  
We stand adjourned until 1 p.m.