

U. S. Department of the Interior
Bureau of Land Management

National Wild Horse & Burro Advisory Board Meeting Minutes

Central Wyoming College, Little Theater
Student Center Building (SC 109)
2660 Peck Avenue, Riverton, Wyoming 82501

August 25, 2014



U.S. Department of the Interior
Bureau of Land Management

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Executive Summary

The Wild Horse and Burro Advisory Board (Board) advises the Secretary of the Interior, the Bureau of Land Management (BLM) Director, the Secretary of Agriculture, and the Chief of the U. S. Forest Service (USFS) on matters pertaining to the management and protection of wild, free-roaming horses and burros on the Nation's public lands. The Advisory Board's Charter was renewed in July. It will expire in July 2016.

During its August 25, 2014, meeting held in Riverton, Wyoming, the Board received updates from the BLM on a number of areas pertaining to the management of wild horses and burros, including Wyoming's Wild Horse and Burro Program.

The BLM provided a Program Update, including an update on the budget which examined Fiscal Year 2014 and 2015 funding. The update also covered BLM's off-range activities, including upcoming adoptions and the Inmate Training Initiative, as well as open pastures and eco-sanctuaries.

During the Research Update, BLM described the purpose and status of research being initiated or already underway on Population Growth Suppression, including research to be conducted by the U.S. Geological Survey. An update was also provided on additional research including shade in corral facilities and socio-economic research.

The U.S. Forest Service Update was provided by Mr. Imler, Forest Service Rangeland Program Manager. He described changes to wild horse and burro management within the Forest Service and walked through an action plan to implement these changes.

A presentation on the fundamentals of range management was provided by Dr. Steven Petersen, Associate Professor, Rangeland Landscape Ecology and GIS, Department of Plant and Wildlife Sciences, Brigham Young University. Dr. Petersen discussed the effects of grazing on vegetation and eco-system health; grazing management strategies; and research on the effects of horses on rangelands.

Welcome/Introductions/Call to Order

- Dr. Boyd Spratling, Chair, National Wild Horse and Burro Advisory Board (Board)

Dr. Spratling opened the meeting at 8:00 a.m. in the Little Theater, Student Center Building (SC 109) at Central Wyoming College in Riverton, Wyoming. He welcomed meeting attendees (including those participating via online streaming technology), and asked each member of the Board to introduce themselves.

Board Member	Representing
Mr. J. Timothy Harvey	Humane Advocacy
Dr. Sue M. McDonnell	Wild Horse and Burro Research
Mr. Rick E. Danvir	Wildlife Management
Mr. John Falen	Livestock Management
Dr. Boyd Spratling	Veterinary Medicine
Ms. Callie Hendrickson	Public Interest (with special knowledge about protection of wild horses and burros, management of wildlife, animal husbandry, or natural resource management)
Dr. Robert E. Cope	Natural Resources Management
Ms. June Sewing	Wild Horse and Burro Advocacy
Mr. Fred T. Woehl, Jr.	Public Interest (with special knowledge about equine behavior)

Agenda Review

- Ms. Kathie Libby, Facilitator, BLM

Ms. Libby introduced herself and welcomed the public, noting appreciation for the dedication, information, and advocacy that the public offers. From the agenda, she highlighted the 1:00 to 2:30 p.m. public comment period and explained that those wishing to comment should indicate this on the sign-up sheet available at the registration desk in the back of the room, if they had not already done so. Ms. Libby reviewed the agenda, the meeting logistics, and the rules of the room.

Opening Remarks

- Mr. Greg Shoop, Acting Designated Federal Officer (DFO) and Deputy Assistant Director, Resources & Planning, BLM

Mr. Shoop welcomed the Board and the attendees to the meeting. He remarked that the field tour for the Board the day prior to the meeting provided a great opportunity to understand conditions in the field, see wild horses on the range, and discuss management with BLM staff in Wyoming. Mr. Shoop introduced the BLM Washington Office staff attending the meeting.

Welcome/Introduction to Wyoming

– Mr. Don Simpson, Wyoming State Director, BLM

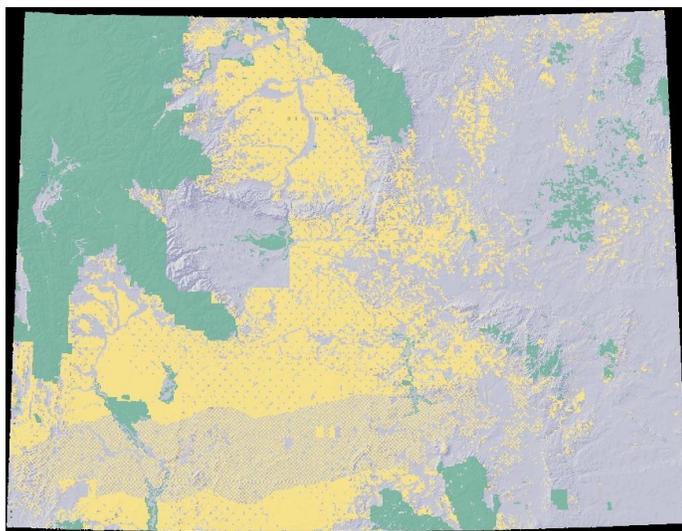
Mr. Simpson introduced his staff and welcomed the Board to Wyoming. He provided a presentation about the state. Mr. Simpson said Wyoming has just over 97 thousand square miles and is a dry state with climate extremes and elevation differences. The state's mountain peaks in the west and high desert plains in the east, characterize the topography. Wyoming has the second highest mean elevation in the United States at 6,700 feet.

Wyoming ranks 50th in terms of population but is the ninth largest state in land area. Until recently, antelope outnumbered people. Now, these populations are running neck-and-neck.

Mr. Simpson noted that in the 1930's the first grazing district in the bureau was created in WY. Agriculture is the state's third largest industry. Mr. Simpson explained the origins of the "checkerboard" lands in southern WY. To encourage construction of the intercontinental railroad, Congress granted alternate sections of land to the Union Pacific railroad in the mid-1800s for twenty miles on each side of the center line of the railroad path. The result is a "checkerboard" of private and public land ownership.

The BLM manages about 18 million surface acres in WY (28 percent) while two-thirds of the state is federal mineral estate. The BLM state office is located in Cheyenne. There are three district offices and ten field offices. From west to east, the field offices are located as follows:

- High Desert District:
Kemmerer, Pinedale,
Rock Springs, and
Rawlins
- Wind River Bighorn
Basin District: Cody,
Worland, and Lander
- High Plains District:
Buffalo, Casper, and
Newcastle



On this map, the BLM-administered lands are shown in pale yellow. The green represents Park Service, Forest Service, Bureau of Reclamation, Corps of Engineers, Department of Defense, Department of Energy, Fish and Wildlife Service, and Bankhead Jones lands. The gray square area near the center is the Wind River Indian Reservation – home to the Eastern Shoshone and Northern Arapaho tribes.

Wild Horse and Burro Program in WY

Mr. Simpson turned the presentation over to June Wendlandt, the BLM Wyoming Wild Horse and Burro Program Lead. Mrs. Wendlandt explained that Wyoming's population of wild horses (3,771 animals as of Feb 2013) are managed by the Rawlins, Rock Springs, Lander, Worland, and the Cody Field Offices. The BLM also has holding facilities such as the Mantle Wild Horse Training and Adoption Center, where horses are trained and offered for adoption via the Internet or by appointment. The BLM has had a partnership of 26 years with the Wyoming Honor Farm, which is the state prison. The prisoners benefit by learning to care for and train the horses, and the horses receive training so they can find good adoptive homes. BLM's Rock Springs facility receives the horses after they are gathered from the range and gets them ready for adoption. The facility has a capacity of about 700 horses.

Mrs. Wendlandt described BLM's Deerwood Ranch Wild Horse Eco-sanctuary. This is BLM's first wild horse eco-sanctuary and is a 4,000 acre family-owned ranch located west of Laramie. This facility has almost 300 wild horses. The ranch is a wonderful place to see horses. There is another prospective sanctuary just outside of Lander, WY, which is in the review process.



Mrs. Wendlandt reported that Deerwood hosted 376 visitors in 2013 for tours and will likely host about the same number of people (or more) in 2014.

Mrs. Wendlandt explained that a gather was planned for the Great Divide, Adobe Town, and Salt Wells Creek Herd Management Areas, noting that about half of the acreage in these HMA's is in the checkerboard. Private landowners within the checkerboard are represented by the Rock Springs Grazing Association. All horses are to be removed from the checkerboard. The population census in 2014 was conducted using the simultaneous double count method. The resulting population tally was used to determine the number of horses to be gathered from these HMAs.



2014 Statistically Corrected Census Counts

HMA	Total within HMA	Total within the Checkerboard
Great Divide Basin	618	394
Salt Wells Creek	728	402
Adobe Town	566	10

Turning to adoptions, Mrs. Wendlandt noted that 103 horses and burros have been adopted so far this year from the Wyoming Honor Farm, Rock Springs Holding Facility, Cheyenne Frontier Days, other adoption events, and through internet adoptions. Events included a National High School Finals Rodeo at the Rock Springs facility with 615 attendees.

Mrs. Wendlandt also recounted a story exemplifying the great qualities of wild horses. One of the BLM's wild horse and burro specialists helped a family evacuate an injured woman from the wilderness after the woman broke her ankle. The woman was carried out of the wilderness on the specialist's mustang, Champ. Champ is great example of how strong, steady, and calm wild horses are after they are trained.

Mrs. Wendlandt invited questions from the Board. Mr. Woehl suggested that the new eco-sanctuary could be a good place to hold the horses gathered from the checkerboard. Mrs. Wendlandt said the sanctuary evaluation is still underway and that the sanctuary will be used for Wyoming horses.

Dr. Spratling thanked the Wyoming BLM for the previous day's field visit. He commented that it is educational for the Board to see rangeland resources and wild horses and discuss management with BLM in a field setting. He congratulated Wyoming BLM for actively managing the wild horse herds.

Approval of April 14 and 15, 2014 Minutes

The minutes from the April 14-15, Board meeting were approved without modification.

Advisory Board Charter/SOPs

– Ms. Sarah Bohl, Wild Horse and Burro Program Specialist, BLM

Ms. Bohl addressed the Advisory Board's Charter and Standard Operating Procedures (SOPs). The charter is a three-year document and it was renewed in July 2014. It will expire in July 2016. Sarah highlighted two changes in the document. First, in the Membership and Designation Section, the Public Interest positions are now described separately to clarify that two of the nine Board positions are Public Interest positions. One is a Public Interest position with the focus on equine behavior. The other is a Public Interest position with special knowledge of wild horses and burros, wildlife management, animal husbandry, or natural resource management. Second, in the Authorities Section, the Department of Interior added references to additional parts of BLM regulations for Federal advisory committees, including a reference to the portion of the regulations that requires a quorum for an advisory board meeting to be conducted.

Ms. Bohl said that while the Charter is a document that is maintained by the department, the SOPs are the Board's document. She invited questions and discussion. Dr. Spratling noted that the Board had been making it a practice to look at and discuss the Charter at each meeting. He felt the Board was up-to-date on the status of the documents.

BLM Response to Advisory Board Recommendations

– Ms. Joan Guilfoyle, Wild Horse and Burro Program Division Chief, BLM

Ms. Guilfoyle thanked the Wyoming BLM staff for hosting the field visits and the meeting. She expressed appreciation for the value of visiting a smaller community and getting out on the ground with BLM staff and the Board. She introduced additional BLM staff attending or presenting at the meeting, both in person and by telephone.

Ms. Guilfoyle provided a summary of BLM's response to recommendations made by the Board during its April 14-15, 2014 meeting (BLM's written response to the recommendations was provided to the Board as part of their meeting materials). Ms. Guilfoyle noted that the BLM had accepted the 13 recommendations pertaining to working groups. She read through each recommendation at the Chair's request.

Recommendations 1 through 13

The following recommendations were made by the Board concerning the BLM-formed working groups.

Recommendation #1: The National Wild Horse and Burro Advisory Board recommends Dr. Sue McDonnell replace Dr. Robert Bray on the BLM-formed *Comprehensive Animal Welfare Program*. Other members of the Working Group currently include Dr. Boyd Spratling and Tim Harvey.

Recommendation #2: The National Wild Horse and Burro Advisory Board recommends Fred Woehl replace Julie Gleason and recommends the addition of John Falen to the BLM-formed *Increasing Adoptions* working group. The other member of the working group is June Sewing.

Recommendation #3: The National Wild Horse and Burro Advisory Board recommends Fred Woehl be added to the BLM-formed *Eco-Sanctuary* working group. Other members of the working group include Tim Harvey and Callie Hendrickson.

Recommendation #4: The National Wild Horse and Burro Advisory Board recommends Rick Danvir replace Julie Gleason on the Advisory Board-formed *Ecotourism* working group. The other members of the working group include Callie Hendrickson (Chair) and Tim Harvey.

Recommendation #5: The National Wild Horse and Burro Advisory Board recommends the Advisory Board-formed *Establish Criteria for Evaluation of the HA/HMA Suitability of Herd Reintroduction* working group be combined with the Advisory Board-formed *Herd Area Repopulation* working group.

Recommendation #6: The National Wild Horse and Burro Advisory Board recommends Dr. Sue McDonnell replace Dr. Robert Bray on the Advisory Board-formed *Herd Area Repopulation* working group. Other members of the working group include Tim Harvey and June Sewing.

Recommendation #7: The National Wild Horse and Burro Advisory Board recommends Fred Woehl replace Paul Durbin and recommends the addition of Rick Danvir to the Advisory Board-formed *Financial* working group. The other member of the working group is Callie Hendrickson.

Recommendation #8: The National Wild Horse and Burro Advisory Board recommends Fred Woehl replace Julie Gleason on the Advisory Board-formed *Public Comment* working group. Other members of the working group include Tim Harvey and June Sewing.

Recommendation #9: The National Wild Horse and Burro Advisory Board recommends Tim Harvey and Dr. Robert Cope replace Paul Durbin and Julie Gleason on the Advisory Board-formed *Director's Challenge-type Efforts that Support Volunteer Resources* working group. The other member of the working group is June Sewing.

Recommendation #10: The National Wild Horse and Burro Advisory Board recommends the title of the Advisory Board formed *Director's Challenge-type Efforts that Support Volunteer Resources* be shortened to *Support Volunteer Resources*.

Recommendation #11: The National Wild Horse and Burro Advisory Board recommends Dr. Sue McDonnell and Dr. Robert Cope replace Dr. Robert Bray and Jim Stephenson, and that Tim Harvey be removed from the Advisory Board formed *Population Growth Suppression* working group. The other member of the working group is Dr. Boyd Spratling.

Recommendation #12: The National Wild Horse and Burro Advisory Board recommends the Advisory Board-formed *National Wild Horse and Burro Advisory Board Standard Operating Procedures* working group be disbanded.

Recommendation #13: The National Wild Horse and Burro Advisory Board recommends Dr. Robert Cope replace Jim Stephenson on the Advisory Board-formed *Resources* working group. Other members of the working group include Dr. Boyd Spratling, John Falen, Rick Danvir, and Callie Hendrickson.

Ms. Guilfoyle then provided a brief overview of recommendations 14 – 18.

Recommendation 14: The National Wild Horse and Burro Advisory Board recommends BLM conduct environmental analyses which highlight the consequences and the resulting cumulative impacts of leaving horse numbers over AML on the affected rangelands. Also, the NEPA analyses should emphasize the impact on rangeland health of keeping numbers above AML levels.

BLM Response: BLM will be conducting a programmatic Environmental Impact Assessment in Fiscal Year 2015 and is currently looking for a Project Manager.

Recommendation 15: The National Wild Horse and Burro Advisory Board recommends BLM consider establishing a simplified format/process available on the website to allow BLM to give quick response to

offers of volunteerism, service, and resources. Characteristics – quick reply that includes how you can be contacted concerning your offer.

BLM Response: BLM accepted the recommendation. The BLM is making changes to the website to make it more specific to the program and make it more user-friendly.

Recommendation 16: The National Wild Horse and Burro Advisory Board recommends BLM continue its financial support for partnership agreements that aid the adoption of trained horses and burros and decrease the burden of long-term holding.

BLM Response: BLM accepted the recommendation. Ms. Guilfoyle noted that the BLM is working to expand the prison inmate training programs.

Recommendation 17: The National Wild Horse and Burro Advisory Board recommends that BLM explore options to increase continuity of Board membership.

BLM Response: BLM asked for clarification on this recommendation. Ms. Guilfoyle said if there is an issue concerning transitioning people onto the Board, then there are things that BLM could do to ease the transition. Ms. Guilfoyle said if there were other aspects to the recommendation that the Board members wanted to think about, or clarify for BLM, she was open to hearing them.

Recommendation 18: The National Wild Horse and Burro Advisory Board recommends the BLM ensure budget is a standing agenda item for Board meetings.

BLM Response: BLM accepted the recommendation. The budget is now a standing item on the agenda.

Mr. Harvey provided clarification of Recommendation 17. The concern was about how to make the Board's subcommittees more productive, noting that there is turnover in the committees as Board members finish their terms, and the Board only meets twice a year. Mr. Shoop noted that the subcommittees could meet more frequently, for example by teleconference. Mr. Harvey and Dr. Spratling expressed support for that idea. Dr. Cope offered that other groups he is involved with hold monthly conference calls. This helps everyone stay in contact and get work done. Dr. Spratling noted that everything discussed in a Working Group is then discussed at the full Advisory Board to ensure transparency.

Budget Update

– Ms. Holle' Hooks, Wild Horse and Burro Program Specialist, BLM

Ms. Hooks walked the Board through the budget information provided to the Board as part of their briefing materials. She reviewed the FY 2014 spreadsheet, and noted she is working with the Board's Financial Working Group. She said that operational activities include adoptions, short and long-term holding, and gathers and removals. In response to a question from the Board, Ms. Hooks clarified that line item JJ in the FY 2014 table was strictly for removals. Any activity where population growth suppression was conducted would be captured under the population growth suppression line item.

In regards to FY 2015, Ms. Hooks mentioned the President's Budget request of \$80.2 million, noting that until Congress takes action on FY 2015 appropriations, the total funding level will not be certain. She explained that the FY 2015 budget table addressed herd management and monitoring and population inventories for FY 2015. Funding was included to continue implementing the National Academy of Sciences (NAS) research projects and for conducting field studies in FY 2015. Funding for short- and long-term holding, including the eco-sanctuaries, is also included.

Mr. Falen asked if the \$4 million listed for population growth suppression included gathers for fertility treatments. Ms. Hooks confirmed that this was the case. She added that in FY 2014 and 2015, the budget includes funding for removals in emergency situations. She added that any gathers that are specific to treating animals or sex ratio adjustments would be under Population Growth Suppression. Mr. Falen said he did not believe enough money was available for population control. Ms. Hooks said there are some challenges when full year funding is not made available by Congress at the beginning of the fiscal year.

In response to questions about spending on NAS research, Ms. Hooks noted that the original spending plan for FY 2014 devoted \$6.1 million to NAS research. The program initiated 4.1 million of research. Instead of being available at the beginning of the fiscal year in October, the funding was not available until January 2014, and this made it difficult to use the full amount within the fiscal year. Ms. Hooks explained that currently much of the focus for population growth suppression is on investing in research to get better tools. In out-years we expect to see greater amounts of money focused on making use of those tools through operational activities.

Ms. Guilfoyle said the BLM is committed to population growth suppression. Mr. Shoop emphasized the investment in research for better population growth suppression. Ms. Guilfoyle said that in FY 2014, BLM asked for money for the research needs they had identified at that time. Now, the BLM has a better idea of what is needed. Mr. Falen said he understands that research takes time, but sometimes it is hard to accept the slow pace because population growth suppression is badly needed.

Mr. Falen requested clarification of spending this year on population growth suppression. Ms. Hooks confirmed that BLM spent approximately \$189,000 this year. Because BLM already has some Porcine Zona Pellucida (PZP) on hand, the expenditure reflects only the cost for the applicators to administer the PZP. Mr. Harvey remarked that PZP application is primarily done in the fall and asked if there are any planned gather activities for administering PZP. Ms. Guilfoyle said that gathers conducted this FY are being carried out only to address private property requests, public safety issues, or court orders.

There was discussion of the impact on the program if there is a Continuing Resolution at the FY 2014 funding level for FY 2015. The FY 2014 level was \$77.3 million, compared to the President's Budget of \$80.2 million. Mr. Shoop explained that the BLM would have to adjust program priorities if a year-long Continuing Resolution occurs, but the program would remain intact. Ms. Hendrickson asked the BLM to provide the budget information in a PowerPoint in future so the public can see the figures being discussed.

Program Update

– Ms. Joan Guilfoyle

Ms. Guilfoyle noted that BLM has reorganized the Wild Horse and Burro Program into on-range and off-range branches. The on-range branch in Reno will handle removals, population growth suppression treatments, population surveys, and research. The off-range branch in Oklahoma will cover adoptions and sales, inmate training programs, and open pastures and corrals.

Adoptions and Sales

As of August 5, 2014, 1,710 animals have been adopted. BLM sold 18 horses and 58 burros. Ms. Guilfoyle noted that the Humane Society's Platero project is a wonderful initiative that is finding good homes for trained and untrained burros. Ms. Guilfoyle reviewed the schedule of upcoming adoptions.

Ms. Guilfoyle then discussed a past Board recommendation to improve the infrastructure for moving animals to the East to facilitate more adoptions – the “milk run” idea. An adoptions and sales-focused team in Nevada is reviewing how all States could implement the milk run as well as recommendations from an evaluation by BLM management on the adoption and sales program.

Ms. Guilfoyle discussed the BLM's efforts to expand the number of programs where inmates train horses and learn job and life skills. When training is complete, the animals are adopted and sold. Several states with prison industry programs (WI, KY, OH, WA, ID, and MT) and the Federal Bureau of Prisons have expressed interest in starting programs in their facilities.

Ms. Guilfoyle discussed the Facilities Report from the Board's meeting materials, which covers capacity for horses off-range. It includes all the space for which contracts or agreements exist including pastures, corrals, eco-sanctuaries, and inmate training programs. The costs of off-range holding consumed 64 percent of the program budget in FY 2013. BLM is seeking ways to reduce that expenditure. Pastures are more economical than corrals, and provide a preferable environment.

Open Pastures and Corral Space

Ms. Guilfoyle said the BLM put out solicitations for corrals and pasture space nationwide over the summer of 2014. The BLM will evaluate the proposals received to identify the best options based on locations, facility conditions, and price. The BLM wishes to bring holding costs down so there are more resources available for field monitoring and range management. Mr. Harvey suggested a minimum of 100 or 150 animals for a facility might lead to increased numbers of proposals for provision of holding space. Mr. Zachary Reichold, Wild Horse and Burro Program Senior Advisor responded that in the recent solicitations the minimum for open pastures was set at 100 animals and the minimum for corrals was 200. Mr. Harvey was pleased that the minimums had been reduced. Mr. Harvey raised the topic of open pastures in the East. Mr. Reichold said the BLM will consider these applications cautiously to ensure the well-being of the animals. Moving the horses to the climate and conditions in the East could affect their hooves, expose them to diseases, and cause other issues.

Dr. Spratling raised the topic of attrition at facilities as the horses in holding age. Although attrition rates are low, there are about 22,000 horses that are at least 11 years old; there will be higher attrition in coming years. He raised the possibility that contractors with older animals might not want to continue the contract if they are at a point when more horses will be passing away from old age.

Ms. Guilfoyle then discussed the transfer of 1,493 mares from a pasture in Kansas. The contractor decided that they did not want to continue providing services to BLM and gave BLM notice to move the mares. The BLM team found space as close as possible so the animals only had to be moved 310 miles. It was the first time that BLM has moved that many older horses. To date, 80 of the horses have either died on their own or been euthanized. The program is awaiting a report on the operation that will identify if there were things that BLM should have done differently. If similar movements of horses occur in the future, BLM will do a similar level of communications as it does for gathers to ensure that the operation is transparent to the public. In discussion of the transfer of the horses in Kansas, Dr. Cope asked about the necropsies done on the horses. Ms. Guilfoyle asked Dr. Kane, Senior Staff Veterinarian, APHIS to respond. He said the necropsies did not indicate any diseases or infections.

Ms. Hendrickson asked about guidelines to determine which horses are transportable. Ms. Guilfoyle said that in the Kansas situation, some horses were determined to be non-transportable based on their health. Mr. Reichold explained that the BLM uses a body score of three or lower alongside a poor prognosis for survival. He said that prior to transport, the animals received vaccinations, de-worming and blood draws to meet shipping requirements. Mr. Harvey emphasized the importance of adequate notification timelines in the contract, noting that in the Kansas situation BLM didn't have much time to prepare for the transfer. Mr. Reichold agreed that the contract should be reviewed. Mr. Woehl commented that a contingency plan should be in place for transferring animals, and observed that moving older animals is difficult. He said he wished to state for the record that BLM did a good job in the Kansas situation. Mr. Woehl asked what information is available on the role that stress from the move played in the animal deaths. Dr. Kane responded that stress was a factor.

Shade Research

Ms. Guilfoyle updated the Board on shade research, noting that BLM wants to ensure comfort as much as possible for animals in various kinds of conditions. She referenced a public workshop held a year ago at Palomino Valley Corrals in Reno to discuss shade for animals during high temperatures. The University of California at Davis (UC Davis) then conducted an evaluation and recommended that shade be installed in corrals housing compromised animals. BLM has installed the recommended shade structures. UC Davis is now conducting further research on shade at Palomino Valley Corrals. Dr. Kane then described a thermal assessment done by APHIS at Palomino Valley Corrals. Measurements were taken during the solar peak of the day and at night. Data are being analyzed. A draft of the report is expected in September.

Prize Challenge

Ms. Guilfoyle next reported on the Prize Challenge that BLM has been working on with the Office of Science and Technology Policy. The Prize Challenge is aimed to improve the management of wild horses and burros on public rangelands. She described a June workshop held to define what challenge we want problem solvers to address. Ideas from the workshop included a challenge to explore the demand for wild

horses and burros in the adoption or sales markets. Another idea was to pursue a new, longer lasting contraceptive that could be more easily administered to unapproachable animals on the range. A third idea was to focus the challenge on other ways to deliver the PZP. Workshop participants were eager to help and want to stay involved in the Prize Challenge.

Tour of Indian Lakes Road Facility, Fallon NV

Ms. Guilfoyle announced that there will likely be a public tour of the Indian Lakes Road corral facility in mid-October in Carson City, Nevada.

Removals

Ms. Guilfoyle noted that limited off-range holding capacity affected how many horses could be removed from the range this year. In FY 2014, the BLM approved removals to comply with court orders; address requests to remove animals from private property; and to address public safety and nuisance concerns. For FY 2015, the BLM has asked the field offices to identify sites where we should undertake PZP treatments, places that need retreatment, and HMAs suitable for field trials for research projects. BLM has planned for 2,000 removals in the FY 2015 budget. This number may need to be adjusted based on funding, need, holding space, and research priorities.

Ms. Hendrickson expressed concern that holding costs consume such a large portion of the program budget. She would like to see focus on the ecological and economic costs of leaving too many horses on the range. Dean Bolstad, Wild Horse and Burro Program Senior Advisor, BLM responded that the National Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) will evaluate the impacts of various alternatives, including a “no action” scenario. Mr. Bolstad noted that the EIS takes two to three years. Ms. Hendrickson said the long timeframe causes frustration. Ms. Guilfoyle said that the intent of the research that BLM is initiating on population growth suppression is to put tools in the hands of managers in the field. It will be hard for a while until the research delivers the tools. Removals alone will not address the problem. Dr. Cope asked how much local governments and tribes can be involved in the EIS. Mr. Bolstad said they can be involved in the public comment process. Additionally, Mr. Shoop said many cooperating agencies get involved in programmatic EISs.

OIG Investigation

Ms. Guilfoyle updated the Board that the Office of the Inspector General (OIG) is still investigating an individual named Tom Davis who bought 1,777 animals from BLM over the course of five years. The investigation began in 2010 and transferred to the OIG. Ms. Guilfoyle contacts the OIG regularly for updates. The only information that the OIG could share with her was that the investigation is on-going.

Research Update

– Mr. Zach Reichold, Wild Horse and Burro Program Senior Advisor, BLM

Population Growth Suppression Research

Mr. Reichold said that currently, the BLM has no highly effective, long-lasting, and easily delivered fertility control methods to control wild horse population growth. The BLM is initiating research studies

aimed at developing new methods for fertility control or refining current techniques. The BLM is also looking at protocols for safe and effective surgical procedures.

The BLM released a Request for Applications open to universities, non-profit organizations and other entities and received 20 proposals in response. BLM assembled a Technical Proposal Advisory Committee (TPEC). The TPEC conducted an initial review of the proposals and determined which proposals met basic requirements. The BLM then entered a contract with NAS to look at the scientific integrity and feasibility of the proposals. NAS will also look at the budgets submitted as part of the proposals to make sure that the associated costs are fair and reasonable. The NAS is reviewing the proposals and will provide their recommendations to BLM no sooner than December.

Mr. Woehl asked how many of the 20 proposals made the cut for the final review. Mr. Reichold said BLM is not allowed to discuss this because of Federal procurement standards. If the number under consideration were divulged, it would detract from the competitive nature of the review. Under the proposal process, the potential partners submit a cursory cost estimate. The actual cost is negotiated at the end of the proposal process. Ms. Hendrickson asked how long it will take for BLM to enter into an agreement. Mr. Reichold answered that after NAS makes its recommendations, the agreements could be awarded fairly quickly. The TPEC will consider the NAS recommendations and make their own set of recommendations to management on funding priorities. Ms. Guilfoyle noted that studies on surgical methods may result in usable tools more quickly because the methods are established and need only to be trialed on wild horses to ensure safety. In contrast, it may take a long time to develop a new vaccine.

In addition to the proposals under review by the NAS, Mr. Reichold noted that the BLM is also planning research trials to look at geldings as a component of a non-breeding herd and surgical and chemical methods of sterilization.

U.S. Geological Survey (USGS) Studies – 2015

Mr. Reichold went over topics of research that the USGS will be conducting for BLM:

- Non-invasive genetic sampling (fecal DNA) – This will be used as a method of looking at the genetic diversity and viability of certain populations.
- Development and testing of radio-collars and tags that would enable BLM to track the movement of animals in future field studies.
- Effects of wild horses on plant communities across a productivity gradient –from the lowlands to the mountains.
- Carrying capacity modeling – to assist the BLM in setting appropriate management levels and allocating forage.
- Population and economic model – to enable BLM to look at the costs and benefits for implementing various management tools.

- Sentinel population studies – this involves looking at individual herd or band characteristics, and how the animals utilize certain areas to give BLM an indicator of the overall health of an area based on an indicator herd.

Shade Study

Mr. Reichold mentioned the Shade Study being conducted by UC Davis. The university is evaluating the use of shade by compromised and healthy horses. The results are expected by November, with a report and manuscript to follow.

Socio-Economic Studies

Ms. Bohl said the BLM is undertaking three studies recommended by the NAS:

1. An assessment of the knowledge, attitudes, preferences, and values regarding wild horse and burro populations and management. Currently the research proposals are under review.
2. An assessment of the demand for wild horses and burros. This assessment includes an evaluation of the adoption program, sales program, long-term holding contracts, and eco-sanctuary providers. The solicitation for this assessment closed on August 20, 2014.
3. An analytic deliberation pilot project, which will have inclusive, collaborative stakeholder engagement. It will begin in October 2014. This project will be performed in-house at BLM. It will be based on transparency, community participation, and engagement.

Dr. Cope said he saw more social than economic values being probed in the studies. He asked if the economic aspect could be studied. Ms. Bohl said that was not in the scope of the three projects. The programmatic EIS will look at costs and benefits of various on-range management options.

U.S. Forest Service Update

– Mr. Barry Imler, Rangeland Program Manager, USFS

Mr. Imler noted that there had been funding changes in the National Office of the Forest Service and an increased level of interest in the program. Managers from the five regions responsible for management of the horse program developed an Inter-Regional Action Plan in early July. Their main goals are to develop more consistency across the regions and get more clarity and direction within the agency. Mr. Imler walked the Board through the action plan.

1. Definitions and Direction. This entails developing definitions and protocols for dealing with horses and burros. They will gather information, address inconsistencies, and determine how the program is being implemented in the field. They will develop a toolkit to address external management proposals. They are also working to describe or define “thriving natural ecological balance”.
2. Interagency Coordination. The Forest Service is gathering existing agreements in one location and

developing coordination protocols for areas managed jointly with BLM. Forest Service units are expected to coordinate more closely with BLM field offices. A template will be developed for regional interaction with BLM offices.

3. **Funding/Target Changes.** This focuses on coordination internally among the Forest Service's regions. The Forest Service is working on a new agreement for an Inter-regional Coordinator, including duties and funding.
4. **Operational Considerations.** The Forest Service will identify contracting officers who have wild horse and burro contract experience and identify knowledge and skills required to be a contracting officer representative. In addition, the Forest Service will identify training needs for rangeland management specialists to manage wild horses and burros, develop a list of common equipment needs, and develop a checklist for gather operations.
5. **Management Plan Content.** The Forest Service is providing national and regional support to ensure consistency (not a cut and paste solution, but a format). The development of a basic framework for territory management plan components is yet to be determined.
6. **NEPA Considerations.** The Forest Service will develop a centralized location for program related reference materials, including copies of all litigation and what was in the complaints and the rulings. They will create a desk guide for forest supervisors.
7. **Future Discussions.** This part of the action plan identifies topics that need to be addressed in future. An Advisory Team will be assembled to serve as a resource to answer questions as issues with wild horse and burro management arise.

Mr. Imler noted that the Forest Service is at 285 percent of AML in its territories. In regards to NEPA analysis, he reported that the Forest Service is probably not going to do a programmatic EIS. Instead they will pull together a series of white papers that local staff can cite when they do NEPA at the local level.

Dr. Spratling asked about the goals of the new approach outlined by Mr. Imler. He responded that the aim is to become more efficient and more consistent in their operations across the agency. The direction Mr. Imler has received is that no more animals should be put in holding facilities and animals in holding should be moved to private care. Dr. Cope recommended that the Forest Service work with the BLM to develop common definitions – an interagency glossary. Dr. Cope cautioned against a static definition for thriving ecological balance, instead develop local standards and monitor conditions. Mr. Imler indicated the Forest Service was planning to proceed as Dr. Cope had suggested.

Fundamentals of Range Management

– Dr. Steven Petersen, Brigham Young University

Dr. Petersen, from Brigham Young University (BYU) in Provo, Utah, gave a presentation on the basic concepts of range management. He received his Ph.D. from Oregon State University in the Department of Rangeland Resources. He is a member of the Society for Range Management. This professional scientific

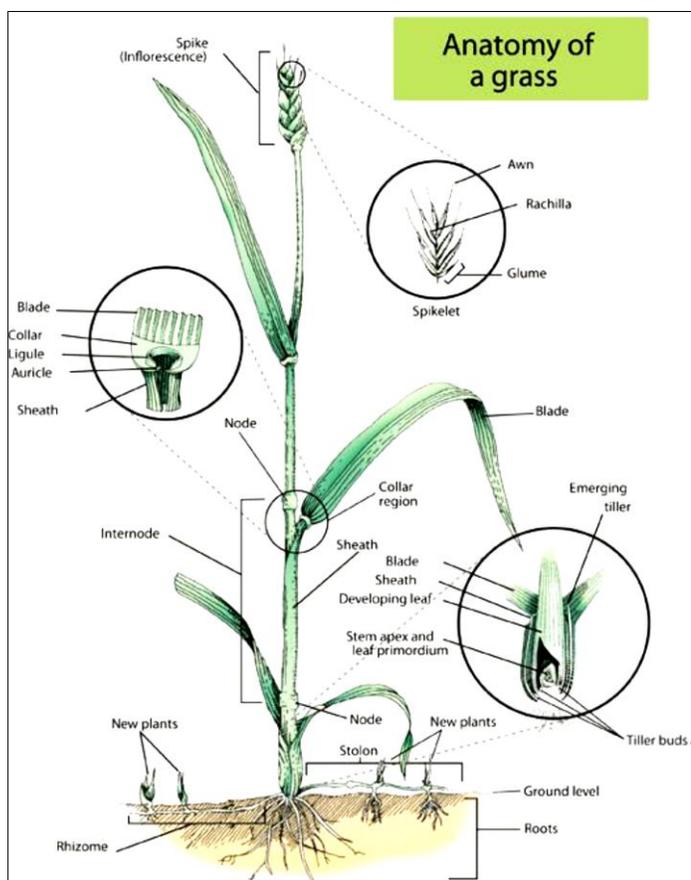
society and conservation organization is concerned with studying, conserving, managing and sustaining the varied resources of the rangelands which comprise nearly half the land in the world.

Dr. Petersen reviewed the principles of range management:

1. Protect rangelands as renewable resources
2. Maintain green plants to capture solar energy and sustain grazing animals
3. Provide protection to soil, water, vegetation, and climate
4. Sustain multiple uses of rangelands (food, water, wildlife habitat, recreation, ecosystem dynamics)

Dr. Peterson said the primary focus of Range Management is to maintain plants along with the biotic and abiotic components that influence ecosystem dynamics. Animal density (stocking rate) is one of the most important grazing management decisions. Range managers need to have a good understanding of the frequency, intensity, and duration of grazing. In addition, they need to understand the grazing capacity – the maximum stocking rate for a site. There should also be an emphasis on community level interactions and on individual plant species responses.

Dr. Petersen explained the anatomy of grass and how it responds to the environment. Animals have been eating forage plant species for thousands of years and this has resulted in species that can tolerate grazing. When an animal bites off the top of a stem of bunchgrass, the tissue in the stem that allows the grass to grow in height, responds by branching, or “tillering”.



For many bunchgrasses, plants will continue to tiller allowing the plant to produce significant biomass. The foliage can be grazed to a certain level without detriment to the plant. Too heavy grazing can result in depleted carbohydrate reserves. A good range manager should know the species on the range and understand their unique traits and characteristics because how each species responds to grazing varies.

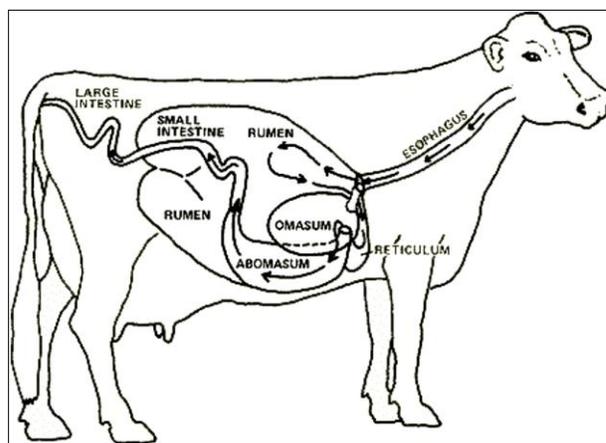
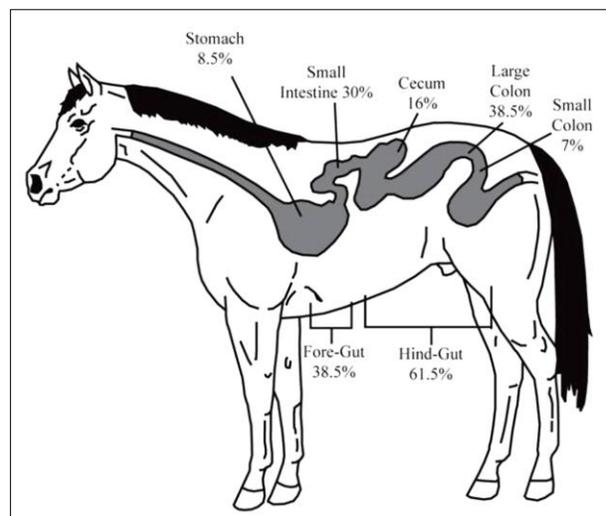
Dr. Petersen said that excessive removal of a plant's leaves destroys photosynthetic capability. The plant requires photosynthesis to create resources for growth and storing energy. Additionally, if grazing removes too much foliage, the plant will not have enough vegetation residue. The residue protects the roots and the crown of the plant where the growing tissues are located. Plants that are highly resistant to grazing are generally less productive and palatable than plants with low grazing resistance. Some plants produce secondary chemicals or compounds in their tissues to deter grazing. This use of energy means

the plant has less energy to produce biomass. Dr. Petersen compared the response of grazing between blue bunch wheatgrass (a native grass, which is a very important rangeland grass in the west) with crested wheat grass (a non-native grass, introduced for increasing grazing potential). Dr. Petersen encouraged the Board to read a case study by Caldwell in 1981.

Next, Dr. Petersen discussed animal digestion. The way an animal processes forage depends on the animal and its type of system. Cows are ruminants while horses are hind gut fermenters with a stomach that is 8.5 to 10 percent of the capacity of their digestive system. A cow's digestive system is much more efficient.

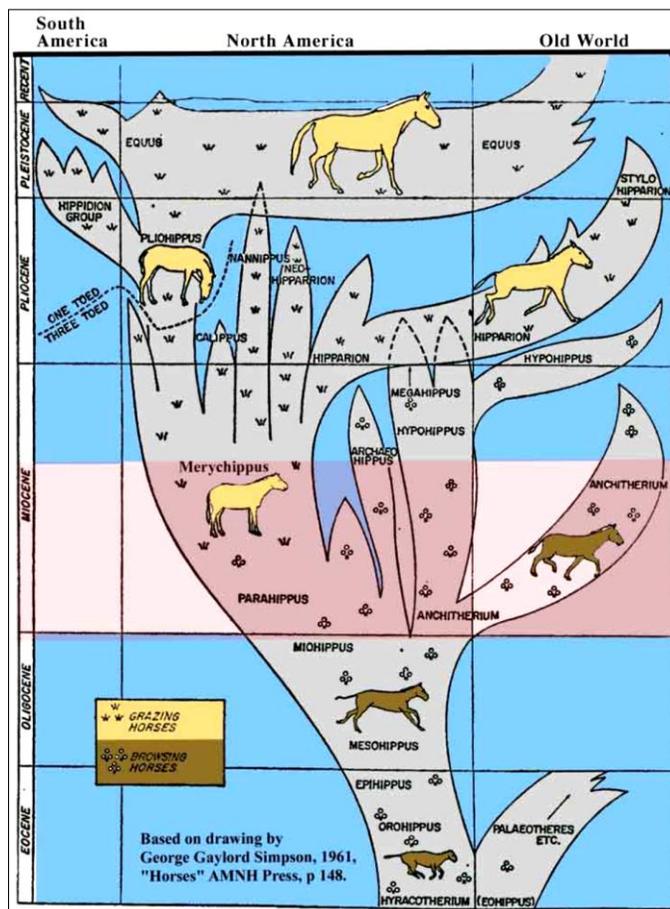
Data on digestion are used to determine an Animal Unit Month (AUM), a calculation of how much forage is required to sustain an animal. One AUM is equal to the food consumption of a 1,000-pound cow and her calf, and represents consumption of 750 pounds of dry matter per month. A horse equals 1.25 AUM and will consume a quarter more in one month than a 1,000-pound cow. AUMs are very important when identifying appropriate stocking rates. To calculate the amount of animals that can use a site without causing rangeland degradation, the total AUMs that will be used is considered alongside the total amount of forage available. A calculation is done to determine the total forage available through an ecological site inventory. Different species of animals eat different species of plants, so the range should be classified by what the animals eat, which is a limiting factor for stocking rates. The available forage calculation entails taking half of the available forage and then subtracting the amount that wildlife are estimated to use. The amount leftover is what is available for livestock.

Dr. Petersen also covered additional factors that influence the impact of grazing such as the timing of grazing and the way that various animals bite the plants. Plants are most impacted by grazing when it occurs during their growing stage. Grazing when plants are dormant has less impact because the plant has already dropped seed - they have allocated resources for reproduction and are storing carbohydrates. Sheep and horses have a dental configuration that enables them to bite plants off down to the ground whereas cows cannot do this. Cows wrap their tongue around the plant and pull off pieces, often leaving more standing material behind than sheep or horses.



Dr. Petersen explained state and transition theory. Systems persist in what are called “states”. The state is composed of natural dynamics and is a resilient and resistant complex of soil and vegetation connected through ecological processes of hydrology, energy capture, and nutrient cycling. The threshold is the boundary in space and time between states. Transitions are the trajectory of change that degrade primary ecological processes. He said that sometimes a system gets out of sync. For example, if an invasive species of grass gets into a system, it can change the dynamics of the system to the point that it cannot recover to the previous state. That is called a crossover threshold.

Dr. Petersen discussed grazing management strategies. He discussed the practice of delaying grazing until the plants reach maturity or go dormant to help preserve adequate vegetation cover to protect the soil



1493 to 1512 by Columbus, Cortez, Coronado, and De Soto.

Dr. Petersen discussed the concept of Appropriate Management Level whereby a stocking rate for horses is set that will enable a thriving ecological balance, and accommodate multiple use for wildlife, livestock, and recreation. He observed that these concepts are hard to tackle. Dr. Petersen turned to a discussion of research on the ecological impacts of horses. He discussed research at Sheldon National Wildlife Refuge in Northwest Nevada. In 2008, researchers put up exclosures for a five-year time period. They compared conditions of the areas where horses had been excluded with areas horses could access. The latter were trampled and the plants were grazed. The soils were less stable and more compacted. They did not see a significance difference in density of vegetation between the exclosures and the other areas. Researchers

from erosion. He also covered resting pastures by rotating animals between pastures. He emphasized the importance of calculating what stocking rates a site can handle to protect the land from crossing a threshold. He explained how the invasive species, cheatgrass invades overgrazed areas where historically there was a mix of native sagebrush, forbes, and grasses. A cheatgrass site will burn more frequently than a native plant community. The site will become a fire driven site where only the annual cheatgrass can persist and the native perennials cannot make a come-back.

Dr. Petersen reviewed the evolution of horses in North America. He said the end of the ice age allowed horses to move to North America. Horses were the most common, abundant grazers in North America. There were also many large predators present. Researchers do not have a good feel for horse densities from that time. Horses disappeared from the fossil record 10,000 to 11,000 years ago. Horses were brought back to North America from

also examined horses' diets by taking vegetation samples and hair samples from horses. They found the horses were eating various grasses, along with sagebrush during certain times of the year.

Radio collar studies were also done to look at horse movement and distance of travel. They found that if horses have access to water, they do not roam very far. Horses can put pressure on riparian resources. Research on horse-wildlife interactions indicated that horse use of a riparian resource discourages wildlife use. In a separate study conducted in western Utah, there were 1300 wildlife visits to guzzlers where horses were excluded versus 200 – 300 visits to sites where horses were present.

Dr. Petersen briefly discussed the topic of horses and greater sage-grouse. Sage-grouse use sagebrush for nesting and to provide food and cover while raising their broods. Horses may eat and trample sagebrush, however, the impact of horses on sage-grouse habitat is not well understood, requiring additional research. He noted examples where sage-grouse numbers increased where grazing was managed carefully and steps were taken to protect and improve sage-grouse habitat.

Following his presentation, Dr. Petersen addressed questions. Dr. Spratling commented that Dr. Petersen had provided useful information for understanding sustainability on rangelands and the relationships between plants, soil, and animals on the range. Mr. Harvey asked if it is important to base the AUM on more than one animal species. Dr. Petersen responded that he teaches his students to look at the diet of every animal species that will be using the range and understand what plants they are eating and when they consume the plants. It is important to know how the animals are going to utilize the resource. He reiterated the practice of reserving 50 percent of the available forage before calculating what is available for grazing. Mr. Woehl asked how many horses were on the range where the water study was conducted. Dr. Petersen responded that the one study area had 300 horses and that the other study (Sheldon National Wildlife Refuge) had about 1200 horses.

Public Comment Period

A public comment period was conducted from 1:00 p.m. to 2:55 p.m. allowing speakers an opportunity to address the Board. Each speaker was asked to limit their presentation to two minutes to ensure all speakers had an opportunity within the overall timeframe identified for public comment. Speakers were encouraged to submit their comments in a written format; therefore, no minutes were recorded during this portion of the meeting.

Working Group Reports

Prior to commencing with the Working Group reports, the Chair provided time for Ms. Guilfoyle to update the Board on several additional items.

Ms. Guilfoyle said that the next Board meeting will occur in April 2015. She noted that three Board positions will be coming open for nominations: wild horse and burro advocacy, veterinary medicine, and public interest with special knowledge of wild horses and burros, wildlife management, animal husbandry, or natural resource management. This will soon be announced in a Federal Register Notice. BLM has discussed the concept of having a Vice-chair for the Board. The Board Chair runs the

meetings, helps set the agenda topics, sometimes helps BLM find speakers, and keeps in communication with the Board and the Working Groups. The Vice-chair would share in these responsibilities. Ms. Guilfoyle requested that if anyone on the Board was interested in becoming the Vice-chair to let her know within two weeks. She indicated she would discuss the Vice-chair concept with the Board when BLM reports back to the Board on their recommendations in one month.

Ms. Guilfoyle updated the Board that a draft of the animal welfare policy for corrals would be in hand in September to October. In regards to the Humanitarian Assistance Pilot, Ms. Guilfoyle explained that the project would entail sending up to 100 trained burros to Guatemala as part of humanitarian assistance to help communities as pack animals. The BLM is working with Heifer International, the Department of Defense, and USAID on the idea and is still working out some administrative issues. The program would provide good homes for some of the 983 burros currently in holding. Mr. Harvey asked if there would be follow up and monitoring to ensure that the people receiving the burros were in good care. Ms. Guilfoyle provided assurance that Heifer International would be on the ground locally, select the families to receive the animals and monitor the animals' health. Dr. Spratling noted that the pilot would be a humanitarian effort, and would help rural society in the receiving country.

Resources Working Group

Dr. Spratling noted that the Resources Working Group invited Dr. Petersen speak at the meeting in order to increase understanding of resource issues. The field trips also contributed to this understanding. Ms. Hendrickson asked Dr. Petersen to clarify why stocking rates should allow for 50 percent of the grass to remain. The 50 percent rule is a management guideline to prevent over-grazing. Dr. Petersen explained that the kind of animal biting the grass is irrelevant. What is important is to avoid over-grazing which can drive successional processes. The plant community shifts towards less desirable species and it becomes very difficult to reestablish a diverse plant community. As plant diversity declines, this harms resources for wildlife species. Without good vegetation cover and leaf litter, the soil's ability to capture and store water declines. Everything is tied together in an ecological system. If you pull parts out of it, the system will break down.

Mr. Danvir asked Dr. Petersen for further comment on grazing management. Dr. Petersen said there are many examples of poor grazing management that have had catastrophic ecological effects. He described channeling in riparian systems because vegetation on stream banks was no longer present to anchor the soil. It is important to avoid pushing a system across a threshold since recovery takes a long time and a lot of money. Mr. Danvir noted that Dr. Colin Homer of USGS in Boise, ID, has been involved in looking at indicators of range condition and there are good data available. Mr. Danvir emphasized the importance of making decisions based on data.

Financial Working Group

There were no items raised for discussion as all had been covered during the Budget Update.

Public Comment Working Group

In the discussion of public comments, Mr. Harvey, Mr. Woehl, and Ms. Sewing each mentioned that the Board values public comment and they read and consider all comments received. Comments that offer ideas and concepts that the Board can consider and work out with the BLM are very valuable.

During the course of the discussion, a Board member began addressing members of the public attending the meeting directly and the audience began to respond. The Chair stepped in to remind everyone that the discussion time is for the Board to discuss matters with each other, rather than engage with members of the public attending the meeting.

There was discussion of the value of getting boots on the ground and finding ways for different groups to collaborate together to improve wild horse and burro management. The Board observed seeing encouraging signs of groups wanting to collaborate and noted the importance of setting opinions aside and moving forward using facts and a collaborative approach.

Mr. Shoop noted the importance of having accurate, clear information on range management readily available to the public. Mr. Shoop suggested that the Board could identify topics where additional information and education might be helpful based on the content of public comments, so that this information could be added to the BLM website. An action item was identified for BLM to evaluate information on range management on the BLM website and improve it as needed.

The Board discussed that they wish to have more interaction between the working groups and other parties. For example, getting input from various experts.

Support Volunteer Resources Working Group

Mr. Woehl talked about the importance of responding to and engaging with volunteers who want to help in good faith. He recounted his experience volunteering with BLM for ten years and noted the significant contributions that volunteers make. Dr. Spratling noted that volunteers are a great help when there are established needs at the District or Field level. Ms. Hendrickson referenced volunteer job descriptions being developed by the BLM and Mr. Woehl reiterated the suggestion from the April meeting to make sure that volunteer needs are articulated and available and that there is an easy, responsive way for volunteers to connect with BLM via the website. Ms. Sewing explained how some groups want to provide financial support for projects that BLM identifies that need to be done. This can also be a very helpful contribution. There was discussion of outreach from the Board to local Resource Advisory Committees (RACs). An action item was identified for BLM to provide the Board with the BLM points of contact for each RAC. Ms. Hendrickson suggested sharing the Board meeting minutes with the RACs. Ms. Guilfoyle suggested that the Board reach out to their respective RACs and offer to do a briefing on the program, using graphics and other materials that BLM can provide.

In regards to information flow from the National Office to the field, Ms. Guilfoyle mentioned that she was considering offering a monthly call with field offices who wished to dial in. This would be in addition to the existing communication channel between the national office and state leads.

Population Growth Suppression Working Group

Dr. Spratling referenced the research proposals on population growth suppression that had been discussed during the research update. The Board is eager to review and consider the reports that will result from the research.

Ecotourism Working Group

There was discussion about what focus the group should take. Ms. Hendrickson spoke about her original interest in identifying special HMAs and working with local BLM offices to enable tour operators to take people around these areas. Mr. Harvey proposed the idea of creating a virtual eco-tour to enable people to experience the horses and their environment. This approach would have less NEPA issues and could be less costly. Outside groups could be involved as volunteers to help develop a virtual eco-tour.

Increasing Adoptions and Sales Working Group

Mr. Woehl suggested making all corral facilities places where you can adopt a horse. Mr. Reichold clarified that animals can be adopted from most of the corral facilities. Mr. Woehl shared feedback from potential adopters that better videos and better photographs of the animals on the internet would facilitate adoption. He also noted that adopters would value knowing the HMA that the horse originated from, even for foals born in a facility. Ms. Guilfoyle noted that the Increasing Adoptions and Sales working group is one of the BLM-formed working groups and Debbie Collins is the lead. She suggested that the Board members in the group raise their suggestions within this working group. She also noted that a Wild Horse and Burro Program team in Nevada is looking at recommendations in an evaluation of the adoption program to identify actions to take.

Eco-sanctuary Working Group

Mr. Reichold updated the Board that there are currently two eco-sanctuaries— Deerwood in Centennial Valley, Wyoming with 300 horses and Colgate, Oklahoma with 150 animals. A third proposed eco-sanctuary was not cost effective and BLM decided not to move forward with it. Another potential eco-sanctuary outside of Lander, Wyoming is under consideration. It would hold between 100 and 167 animals. There is also a public-private sanctuary proposal still under consideration. The facility is going through an EIS. After the EIS is complete, the BLM will look at other considerations such as cost, the marketing plan, and infrastructure to determine whether to move forward. Ms. Hendrickson asked where we were in the EIS process and Mr. Reichold indicated he would check on the status. The process for getting eco-sanctuaries in place is to issue a Request for Applications so there is an open and competitive process.

Advisory Board Discussion and Recommendations to the BLM

There was considerable discussion as part of crafting the recommendations. Key points were as follows:

- Mr. Shoop clarified that the members of the working groups are limited to the members of the Board. However, working groups can seek out information and speak with any individual or group that would be helpful to them for the issues they are considering in the Working Group.
- The BLM was asked to advise the Board on what is available on the website to enable the public to submit comments to the Board and to post a link on the Wild Horse and Burro page to the BLM library of published research at the National Operations Center.
- In response to a question from Ms. Hendrickson, it was clarified that the HSUS research on PZP at Sand Wash and Cedar Mountain was funded by the Annenberg Foundation and is HSUS-led research. BLM's role was to provide the HMA and animals for the research.
- In response to a question from Mr. Harvey, Ms. Guilfoyle described the process for FY 2015 for the field to submit requests for on-range management, including removals with population growth suppression treatments and catch and release to administer population growth suppression.
- Ms. Guilfoyle noted that the states have agreed to do all they can to find homes for animals that are removed, often by working with local groups, rather than putting more animals in holding.

The Board made the following recommendations to the BLM:

Recommendation 1: Mr. Woehl will join the *Support Volunteer Resources* working group. Mr. Harvey will no longer be in the group. Thus, the members will be Mr. Woehl, Ms. Sewing, and Dr. Cope.

Recommendation 2: Mr. Harvey will join the *Population Growth Suppression* working group. Thus the members will be Mr. Harvey, Dr. Spratling (Chair), Dr. McDonnell, and Dr. Cope.

Recommendation 3: BLM will redouble their efforts to furnish tools that District Office specialists need to manage their herds.

Recommendation 4: Regarding Advisory Board working groups, BLM should:

- a. Clarify whether Board Working Groups can consult with outside experts in their deliberations; and
- b. Provide a way for the public to communicate with the Working Groups on specific issues that the working groups are examining.

Recommendation 5: BLM should provide an inventory of the Board's past recommendations, whether each recommendation was accepted, and the status of implementation.

Recommendation 6: The BLM should consult with the Board via the BLM-formed *Eco-sanctuary*

working group prior to publishing a Request for Application (RFA) for eco-sanctuaries.

Closing Remarks

Mr. Shoop thanked the Board and BLM staff. He noted that the fundamental problem to focus on is population management. He commented that the problems we face are complex. His belief is that we should try to find simplicity within complex problems to chart a path forward. Dr. Spratling and Ms. Guilfoyle thanked the Board and the BLM staff and Dr. Petersen. Ms. Guilfoyle thanked Ms. Hendrickson, Ms. Sewing and Dr. Spratling, whose current terms expire in January 2015, for their service on the Board.

The next meeting will be in April 2015. The location is to be determined.

Meeting Adjournment

The meeting was formally adjourned at 6:45 p.m.

Acronyms

The following acronyms were used during the meeting.

<u>Acronym</u>	<u>Meaning</u>
AML.....	Appropriate Management Level
AUM.....	Animal Unit Month
BLM.....	Bureau of Land Management
EIS	Environmental Impact Statement
HMA	Herd Management Area
NAS.....	National Academy of Sciences
NEPA.....	National Environmental Policy Act
PZP.....	Porcine Zona Pellucida
SOP	Standard Operating Procedure
USFS.....	United States Forest Service
USGS	U. S. Geological Survey

National Wild Horse & Burro Advisory Board Members

<p>Wild Horse and Burro Advocacy Ms. June Sewing Executive Director National Mustang Association P.O. Box 1367 Cedar City, Utah 84720 mustangs@infowest.com Term expires: 1/27/2015</p>	<p>Public Interest Ms. Callie Hendrickson P.O. Box 837 Meeker, Colorado 81641 callie.whbab@gmail.com Term expires: 01/27/2015</p>
<p>Public Interest Mr. Fred T. Woehl, Jr. 2151 Watkins Road Harrison, Arkansas 72601 prtfred@gmail.com Term expires: 04/03/2017</p>	<p>Wild Horse and Burro Research Dr. Sue M. McDonnell, Ph. D. 1814 Lenape Unionville Road West Chester, Pennsylvania 19382 suemcd@vet.upenn.edu 04/03/2017</p>
<p>Humane Advocacy Mr. Timothy J. Harvey 56 Beebe River Road Campton, New Hampshire 03223 timotico@gmail.com Term expires: 03/11/2016</p>	<p>Livestock Management Mr. John Falen Whole Ranch Road P.O. Box 132 Orovada, Nevada 89425 jlfalen@gmail.com Term expires: 03/11/2016</p>
<p>Natural Resources Management Dr. Robert E. Cope, DVM 1606 Main Street Salmon, Idaho 83467 cowdoc75@hotmail.com Term expires: 04/03/2017</p>	<p>Wildlife Management Mr. Rick E. Danvir 4251 Donegal Casper, Wyoming 82609 basinwlc@gmail.com Term expires: 03/11/2016</p>
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