

WYOMING BLM RESOURCE ADVISORY COUNCIL

Members: Penny Bellah, Marilyn Mackey, Gary Cukjati, Marshall Dominick, Walt Gasson, Donald Hartley, Kevin Stowe, Tom Clayson, Christine Aimone, Doug Thompson

PO Box 825
Evanston, WY 82931

July 23, 2012

Mr. Donald A. Simpson
Wyoming State Director
Bureau of Land Management
P.O. Box 1828
Cheyenne, WY 82003-1828

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Dear Mr. Simpson:

The Wyoming BLM Resource Advisory Council supports the goal of healthy wild horse herds maintained and managed on a healthy range resource within Appropriate Management Levels (AML's) as set by the BLM. It is imperative that the BLM manage the herds within AML's to reduce overpopulation which leads to degradation of the range resource and a decline in horse herd health.

Currently, the BLM is managing the excess horse numbers over AML's through gathers, adoptions, contraception, and long-term holding facilities. The BLM is evaluating the creation of eco-sanctuaries on private lands in order to accommodate these excess horses. It appears that an eco-sanctuary is just another term for a long term holding facility for a managed non-reproducing population of horses and may, in reality, create another set of problems, such as the change of ownership of the lands, extreme weather conditions reducing resources available for the horses, and the long term costs of dealing with these herds as they age and develop age-related health problems. A strong and urgent focus on managing the wild horse herd within AML's would eliminate the need for long-term holding facilities under any name.

We support the Wyoming Consent Decree and its mandate to the BLM to manage wild horses according to established AML's. We encourage the BLM to seek local solutions when possible and where opportunities exist to address excess wild horse numbers and in order to avoid or settle litigation. We support and encourage the BLM in establishing private partnerships to assist in managing Wyoming's wild horse herds according to Wyoming's management priorities.

Regarding management of funding, it is very important that the BLM provide accurate tracking of tax payer dollars in the management of wild horses. Furthermore, it is essential that Wyoming's share of federal funding for the management of Wyoming's wild horse herd remain in state and not be redirected to other state's horse management areas.

In conclusion, based on the these many issues regarding the management of the Wyoming wild horse herd, the Wyoming BLM Resource Advisory Council strongly advocates that the focus and goal of management should be to manage wild horse populations within AML's under the authorization and mandate of the 1971 Wild Free-Roaming Horse and Burro Act & subsequent amendments and support the BLM utilizing all available, scientifically proven tools to control wild horse populations in order to eliminate the need for long term holding facilities and the excessive costs associated with them.

Sincerely,



Christine Aimone
WY BLM RAC, Chair