

Regional Forester (Reviewing Officer)
Pacific Northwest Regional Office
Attn: 1570 Objections
P.O. Box 3623 Portland, OR 97208-3623

January 4, 2021

OBJECTIONS TO OCHOCO WILD HORSE HERD MANAGEMENT PLAN
Decision Notice, Finding of No Significant Impact, Environmental Assessment
From: Dan Hammond

Comment: The ill-conceived AML proposed in the Preferred Alternative will result in certain and immediate extinction of the Big Summit Herd, as it does not allow for the herd size resiliency necessary to assure surviving members following any catastrophe or predators. [4, 24, 48]

Consideration: In the EA, (p. 58) there is information regarding the intent to manage the AML for Alternative 2. It states that it is not intended to manage at the low AML of 12 but rather maintain the high AML of or slightly below 57 with annual or bi-annual gathers. Alternative 3 does look at a higher AML of 150-200 and the effects associated with that. The analysis of this alternative states, "since the wild horses in the Big Summit Territory are displaying genetic depression and associated low levels of heterozygosity, having an MVP of 50 or more individuals would not be expected to improve the observed heterozygosity to above the recommended critical level of 0.66 (USDI, BLM, 2010). In a letter dated July 16, 2009, Cothran states that enlarging a population's size does not increase the population's genetic variation, it only slows the rate of loss of existing variation (Cothran, 2009)." (EA p. 65).

Objection to Consideration: Wow, you people need to get some education and learn what a person is talking about. You are denying what the real problem is. I was talking about how this herd was going to go extinct after the predators get through with the horses. Especially when you take them down in numbers so low, they will never make it if we have any detrimental events to the horses. I am resubmitting my prior comments (attached) again because you obviously did not read them. Shame on you for not looking at what the elderly, handicapped and low-income people like to do. There is a lot more people like us here that you are choosing to ignore. Most of the people in Crook county might be living below the poverty level. Visiting the horses in our forest, we can afford to do, but once they are gone, they are gone.

The Forest Service puts garbage out to the public when they do the studies on the horses that people do not understand and have information that does not exist. Using a cushion in their information they put out documents that people do not understand, but yet the public expects them to do the right thing. They need to give the wild horses and wildlife their share of the forage so we can have them and their offspring to come for years and not catering to one private individual. In view of how many horses make it through the winter, anybody can figure out that means there is enough winter forage. It is not rocket science! As many predators as there are, that is just ridiculous to take the horse numbers down.

Respectfully,

Dan Hammond

1 attachment enclosed

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]