

Data Submitted (UTC 11): 5/17/2020 2:19:51 AM

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Comments: I'm concerned about the current alternative and ask the AML minimum numbers of wild horse being 60 and the maximum 125, given that the wild horse population appears to stabilize on its own at about 115-125 wild horses, based on the Figure 26 chart on the EA (pg. 64). Once riparian conditions and forage availability improves significantly or if the sheep grazing is stopped or significantly reduced in the Big Summit Territory, more horses would be great!

Alternatives to helicopter use and permanent sterilization (which I'm hoping aren't used) would be bait trapping for removal of wild horses beyond the upper limit and temporary contraceptive use. Introducing wild mares from other populations of wild horse should also be considered to improve diversity and genetic variability of the Big Summit Territory.

Please take care of the wild horse populations, it seems the 1970's condition was for just that and now times have changed drastically and the riparian lands need active restoration and better protection against sheep grazing. Reducing grazing in the winter range and reducing number of sheep permitted should also be considered at the next permit renewal allotment. Thank you for opening up this conversation to public concern. It's hard to keep up with what's going on in the world but the Ochoco is a special, wild place and I am honored to have a my opinions heard.

Lastly, the new motion should consider monitoring any decision to euthanize captured wild horses by an outside group supportive of wild horses, such as the Central Oregon Wild Horse Coalition. Only wild horses not likely to survive on their own and currently suffering should be euthanized; this decision should not be made based on behavior or the old age of wild horses.

Thank you for your time.