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Comments: We urge you to follow the advice of Blue Mountains Biodiversity Project, a reputable and thorough organization guided by science and ethics.

With all this acknowledged long-term degradation of stream and meadow systems and habitat for Redband trout and Columbia spotted frog, why is there no discussion in the EA of Forest Service riparian restoration efforts within the Big Summit wild horse Territory? It seems like the Forest Service is choosing this opportunity to use riparian damage from cumulative impacts of logging, road-building, and use, and sheep and past cattle grazing to blame wild horses from riparian damage and get rid of the wild horses as scapegoats.

There is an inadequate range of alternatives in that none of the alternatives strikes a balance between maintaining a genetically diverse, viable, and healthy wild horse population and significantly improving highly degraded riparian conditions within a reasonable amount of time. Alternative 1 (No Action) has failed to accomplish either so far; Alternative 2 would sacrifice the genetic diversity and long-term viability of the wild horse population through very low population numbers; and Alternative 3 does not allow for increasing genetic diversity in the wild horse population through introduction of some wild mares from other herds and would further degrade, rather than improve riparian forage conditions to due the higher number of wild horses at 150-200 animals. None of the alternatives offered would implement needed active riparian restoration, including exclusion fencing (for sheep or horses) and riparian hardwood shrub and tree planting for the most damaged riparian segments, even though this is a reasonable and widely practiced approach for more rapidly improving riparian conditions, which is emphasized in the EA as part of the need for reducing the number of wild horses.