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Comments: Regarding the Territory Plan...

In 1975 there were 55-65 horses, this was 45 years ago. In 1989 there were 60 head, now there are 135. This herd seems to be maintaining an equilibrium. If the standard 20% annual increase were to be believed, there would be many more horses. Genetic viability is the most important consideration.

Alt. 3 recommends herd size at 150-200, though, there may be some impact on riparian areas and winter forage. Keeping the herd at the low-end of 135 (where it currently is) while removing sick, lame or feeble horses, employing PZP via bait-trapping should maintain a healthy herd. If after these removals and PZP employment, the herd falls well below 135, additional outside mares can be brought in for genetic viability.

There should be no cattle or sheep permitted within the forest.

Riparian areas should be improved with standard processes.

Winter forage should be adequate without the incursion of cattle or sheep. In the event of extreme winter impact, limited feeding could be employed, with further bait-trapping in the spring.

This herd is manageable with minimal invasion and local groups should be employed for PZP maintenance.