

Topic	Question	Answer
CAWP/body conditions	If the horses do have a low body number, why are they gather by helicopter roundup, if they are in poor body condition why are they run for miles? And not by bait trapping?	Bait trapping will not be effective in all areas of the HMA or for the numbers of excess horses needing to be removed. A drive gather with a helicopter will be the most effective way to complete operations. The gather was moved up to July because that is the time of year when spring green supports better body conditions for the horses.
surveys	So they are, in fact, just population "estimates"? You have no way of knowing whether horses are overpopulated or not?	In March 2021 Bureau of Land Management (BLM) personnel conducted simultaneous double-observer aerial surveys, from a helicopter, of the wild horse abundance in the Piceance-East Douglas herd management area (HMA). 1,150 horses were determined to be in the HMA. An estimated population gain of 20% from the 2021 foal crop puts the population at 1,380 without counting 2022 foals.
Public information/predators	Why are there no reports of depredation (Cougars) of wild horses by the BLM?	The 2013 NAS review (page 6) found predation will not control population growth rates of free ranging wild horses - with mountain lions or similar animals.
CAWP/body conditions	Have you considered the horses with low body scores to be elderly?	Approximately 45% of the population has lower body scores (class 1-3) but is not elderly, these scores are found in younger populations.
public land use/boundaries	If horses get on private land, cattle must get on public land - there is no fencing?	Horses searching for forage can find their way through fencing.
What happened to all the horses you gather? How many are released?	Will any stallions be released after the gather?	Yes, as of August 1 when the gather concluded, 41 stallions have been released from the gather. For more information please visit our website - https://www.blm.gov/colorado .
Helicopter Gathers	Who is the contractor for both the bait trap and the planned helicopter roundup?	BLM staff conducted bait trap operations. Cattoors was awarded the contract for the helicopter portion.
Gathers / use of bait traps	Who is the person who makes the decisions as to when and how many horses are to be rounded up?	The Field Manager makes the decision based on an Environmental Analysis, input from field staff, and national availability of holding and gather contractors. The gather has since ended, for final numbers please view our website - https://www.blm.gov/colorado .
Who are the Wild Horse experts?	What are the empirical experience credentials of wild horse "Experts" the BLM says it's using?	We use data and information from population dynamic biologists, ecologists, range management specialists, wild horse specialists, and similar researchers.
Gathers / use of bait traps	Can you please outline the bait trapping?	Panels are set up around water or hay with a gate. A remote, mechanical trigger, or staff member will then close the gate.
TIP trainers	Why is it so hard for Tip trainers to get horses?	BLM Colorado is working with MHF to get a new Storefront on-line to allow for additional TIP horse pickup.
CAWP/body conditions	do you think the poor body conditions found on Piance could be from the same infections seen at Canyon City	No respiratory disease has been noted in horses located in Piceance East Douglas HMA.
Canon City/adoptions	Hasn't the adoptions from canon city been on hold prior to any outbreak?	Facility adoptions at Canon City were reduced during COVID restrictions and prioritization of off-site adoptions and needed staffing for gathers. Off-site adoptions have been found to be more effective in placing horses into private care. Adoptions in fiscal year 2021 occurred in August and November.
CAWP/body conditions	Who is it that determines the numerical value of the horses you showed in a picture of horses with regard to the henneke body scoring?	Body Condition Scores are from evaluations performed by a veterinarian and veterinarian trained field staff.
gathers	Regarding the methods used to remove Wild Horses and Burros from public lands, when does BLM realistically believe there will no longer need to be gathers?	Some removal of excess horses is necessary. The goal is to reduce the size and frequency of gathers through contraception.
fertility control	Are stallions that are being returned to the range castrated? Or treated with Gonacon?	No returning stallions will be treated with GonaCon or gelded.
On-Range Corrals/Holding Facilities; staffing and budget	The BLM office took more than a month to approve my reassignment because of understaffing in the Montana office. How are we rounding up more mustangs when BLM can't care for the ones in holding, nor conduct the adoption process in a timely manner?	BLM Colorado is in the process of addressing Staffing shortages. The wild horses gathered were shipped to Utah, not Colorado.
CAWP/West Douglas horses	Were West Douglas horses present at the Wheatland, Wyoming facility that was forced to close earlier this year during a similar outbreak?	West Douglas HA horses from the 2021 gather were only shipped to the Canon City facility.

grazing	Maybe don't allow the cattle to graze over the greenup. Horses are not managed appropriately. The livestock are given priority.	BLM manages public lands for multiple uses, two uses include livestock and horses. BLM analyzes impacts of grazing through NEPA to issue permits and leases. After the permit or lease is issued, allotments are inspected for permit or lease compliance. Adjustments are made, if needed. Data shows wild horses are consuming over 80% of the forage.
fertility control	Can you speak to the success rate of fertility treatments? PZP treatments do not always work. The animal's immune system can reject it, boosters have to be administered on a schedule and horses are difficult to recapture, etc. Acknowledging the drawbacks can & should be a part of a balanced strategy for managing HMAs.	Effectiveness of fertility control was analyzed in the EA https://eplanning.blm.gov/eplanning-ui/project/2003177/570
grazing	Why are sheep allowed in Sand Wash Basin or any area around the basin during the Sage Grouse nesting time? Horses should not be blamed for the reduction of the Sage Grouse population.	Permitted livestock grazing related to sage-grouse adheres to management decisions in the 2015 Northwest Colorado Greater Sage-Grouse Approved Resource Management Plan Amendment. The plan is available on eplanning on this link: https://eplanning.blm.gov/eplanning-ui/project/105596/570 . Sage grouse populations outside of Sand Wash Basin have increased, while within Sand Wash Basin sage grouse populations have decreased (-26 percent during calendar year 2020-2021). Nearly 60 percent of the HMA is classified as priority habitat for greater sage-grouse. The remainder of the HMA is classified as general habitat. Range and wild horse specialists expect range conditions within sage-grouse habitat to continue to decline indicative of excessive wild horse grazing and current climate data.
Health of Piceance horses	That answer makes absolutely no sense at all...you say that you are starting early because the land is degraded and the horses are thin and unhealthy! We who visit would beg to differ...land is healthy and the horses are extremely healthy!!	Average Body Condition Scores in the spring time disagree with your assessment of horses. Extensive monitoring shows high impacts to the resource. Please see https://eplanning.blm.gov/eplanning-ui/project/2003177/570 for more monitoring information. The gather was moved up to July because horses are in their best condition after spring green up.
Sale Barns	are wild horses allowed to be sent to slaughter? If not, how do they end up in killpens?	The Bureau of Land Management (BLM) does not have the means or legal authority to track or direct the disposition of wild horses or burros once they pass into private ownership (i.e. once an animal is sold by BLM or an adopter receives title). If/when BLM becomes aware of freeze-marked animals arriving at commercial sale barns, the agency will conduct its due diligence to ensure the animals are in fact properly titled or sold. If they are not properly titled or sold, they remain subject to BLM's jurisdiction under the Wild Free-Roaming Horses and Burros Act. The agency will then move to repossess such animals, investigate the matter, and take appropriate legal or administrative action.
private land/fencing	why isn't it mandatory private land be fenced	The legal requirement to fence private lands falls under the authority of the state.
Canon City/genetics	What is the genetic viability of the Colorado herds?	The BLM continues to monitor genetic diversity of wild horses remaining in the HMA through DNA sampling to follow internal policy. If genetic diversity, as measured by observed heterozygosity, is found to be excessively low, then periodic introductions of additional wild horses would augment genetic diversity
grazing	How does the BLM account for the digestive systems of ruminant livestock stripping the seeds of native species plants and grasses?	BLM analyzes impacts of grazing when we complete the NEPA documents to issue permits and leases.
grazing/sage grouse	What other factors might have effected the sage grouse, in the study that you did? Did cattle or anything else, or even human use, enter into your equation, if you are now targetting the horses as the sole cause of the supposed reduction in sage grouse? Did you consider disease and forage availability etc?	The Bureau of Land Management (BLM) partners with Colorado Parks and Wildlife to monitor sage-grouse (and other species) to estimate populations. The BLM sage-Grouse team coordinates with Colorado Parks and Wildlife and other members in a working group for casual factor analysis (CFA) to determine why certain sage-grouse populations are declining. A CFA examines a possible causes of declines.
equine management	Why has the BLM ignored the recommendations for proper equine management by the National Academy of Science?	The National Academy of Science review cited several management measures recommendations, including using scientifically rigorous methods to estimate the number of animals on the range; modeling the effects of management actions, such as the use of fertility-control treatments on mares and stallions and the removal of animals through gathers, on wild horse and burro health; and, following gathers, using the available one-year fertility-control vaccine (known as PZP) more widely and consistently to treat some mares. We have used nearly all of these methods.
PEDHMA	While the PEDHMA is mandated for multiple use, the Act states that HMAs are to be principally devoted to wild horses. Principally is defined in almost every dictionary as "the most" or "the majority." Why are wild horses therefore not allocated at minimum 50% of the forage on the tiny percentage of dedicated lands they were given?	The law's language stating that public ranges where wild horses and burros were found roaming in 1971 may be managed "principally but not necessarily exclusively" for the welfare of these animals refers to the Interior Secretary's power to "designate and maintain specific ranges on public lands as sanctuaries for their protection and preservation" -- which are, thus far, the Pryor Mountain Wild Horse Range (in Montana and Wyoming), the Nevada Wild Horse Range (located within the northcentral portion of Nellis Air Force Range), the Little Book Cliffs Wild Horse Range (in Colorado), and the Marietta Wild Burro Range (in Nevada). The "principally but not necessarily exclusively" language applies to specific Wild Horse Ranges, not to Herd Management Areas in general.

grazing	How do you jot know how many cattle are grazing? Seems like that should be something you should know. Also there is enough land without horses that ATV people can utilize. At what point is enough enough soon this country will be no-trees and all cement.	Compliance inspections are conducted on grazing permits to ensure the number of animals and season of use is met. Reductions in use is calculated at the end of the grazing season based on actual use reports. Additionally, BLM lands are managed for multiple uses, which may include ATV use.
HMA/grazing	interesting you seemed to know numbers of wild horses on the HMA but when asked cow numbers you seem unaware of the numbers..?	Compliance inspections are conducted on grazing permits to ensure the number of animals and season of use is met. Reductions in use is calculated at the end of the grazing season based on actual use reports.
helicopter Gathers/cameras	If Helicopters are HUMANE why no cameras or VETS ON the helicopters?	Drive trap gathers require having an on-site veterinarian who evaluates horses at the trap site to ensure animals are moved at an appropriate speed and distance. Placement of cameras or other items on equipment during a gather operation is prohibited in the contract for drive trapping services. Extra items on the helicopter or other equipment would pose a safety risk to the operators and the animals.
grazing/permits	If you do not know how many cows are out there...how can you claim that ranchers are in complianc with their permits?	Compliance inspections are conducted on grazing permits to ensure the number of animals and season of use is met. Reductions in use is calculated at the end of the grazing season based on actual use reports.

public lands/grazing	How can you speak of "thriving ecological balance" when human interference in the form of cattle is introduced by human intervention?	The removal of wild horses and burros from public rangelands is carried out to ensure rangeland health, in accordance with land-use plans that are developed in an open, public process. Livestock grazing on BLM-managed land has declined by about 29 percent since 1971.
Use of helicopters	Alan, I am a wild horse researcher who lives among and studies wild horses. Do you realize that then you stampede wild horses, they are running for their lives, off the normal trails they use, and in the process, they run over reptiles and ground bird nests.	Cumulative impacts such as these were analyzed and can be found at https://eplanning.blm.gov/eplanning-ui/project/2003177/570 .
fertility control	You answered the question regarding fertility control using PZP on some mares and returning those horses to the range. However, we have heard GonaCon is being used on the Piceance horses, which the studies are not complete on and show problematic results, therefore, not acceptable to many stakeholders. Are you using GonaCon, and if so, why when PZP is preferable?	GonaCon-Equine can safely be reapplied as necessary to control the population growth rate; booster dose effects may lead to increased effectiveness of contraception, which is generally the intent. Even after booster treatment of GonaCon-Equine, it is expected that most, if not all, mares would return to fertility at some point. Although the exact timing for the return to fertility in mares boosted more than once with GonaCon-Equine has not been quantified, a prolonged return to fertility would be consistent with the desired effect of using GonaCon.
capture mortality	Panels break necks in roundups including during adoption events.in Florence. And in Sand wash foals and mares were separated and CAWP requirements for the helicopter to adjust for frail, young and old was disregarded. Those abandoned foals were later found	No mortalities or traumatic injuries related to gather operations occurred during the Sand Wash Basin gather or the Piceance East Douglas gather.
helicopter gathers	To say that helicopters are at all humane for horses is astonishing and clearly not true..	Helicopter drive gathers have proven to be more humane, effective, and efficient than other types of gather methods when large numbers of animals need to be removed over wide areas or rugged terrain, and they lead to lower rates of injury and mortality than comparable capture operations for native big game species.
grazing/livestock	why is taxpayer money being paid to livestock contractors to round up wild horses by helicopter and they being paid to house wild horses in their pastures. Why does the BLM give the livestock industry so much control over the wild horses?	Contracts are awarded to the companies able to supply the service.
Science based	Follow the science. There is new reports out there on how horses do not destroy the range land loke livestock.	Overall, a collection of peer-reviewed scientific studies indicates that overpopulated wild horse herds tend to contribute to rangeland degradation, rather than amelioration.
helicopter gathers	Are you aware that helicopter roundups run horses beyond their natural endurance, which causes immuno suppression?	Effects of Drive-Trapping can be found at https://eplanning.blm.gov/eplanning-ui/project/2003177/570
supplementalfeed/water	Wouldn't it be cheaper to provide \$ for hay and water on the range?	Feeding of horses in the HMA would cause continued resource degradation and remove the free roaming nature of wild horses.
Canon City	PLEASE address stallions in Mare/foal pens in Canon City	A gate failed, horses were re-sorted into the proper pens.

fertility control	Are you aware that the use of PZP and Gonacon is Selective Breeding that results in Genetic Erosion?	Although fertility control treatments may be associated with a number of potential physiological, behavioral, demographic, and genetic effects; those impacts are typically minor and transient, do not prevent overall maintenance of a self-sustaining population, and do not usually outweigh the potential benefits of using contraceptive treatments in situations where it is a management goal to reduce population growth rates.
grazing	how can i buy grazing rights	Grazing permits and leases are issued to people who own or lease lands that have been identified as "base property." After providing proof that you have base property, you may apply for the grazing use, identifying what you want to use for base property (if it is different than what was previously assigned), and then provide proof that you qualify.
AIP/Sale Barns	What are you doing about the Wild horses that are getting into the slaughter pipelines because of the adoption process you are using?	As with all wild horse and burro adoptions since the program began decades ago, adopted animals can become the property of adopters after a year, through a process in which title to the animal is passed to the adopter. Bureau of Land Management (BLM) does not have the means or legal authority to track or direct the disposition of wild horses or burros once they pass into private ownership (i.e. once an animal is sold by BLM or an adopter receives title). We may investigate AIP violations.
helicopter gathers	How can you say helicopter gathers are safe and not causing injuries and deaths? At Sand Wash observers reported seeing horses driven for miles and miles to the point of exhaustion with foals falling behind the family band and on several occasions collapsing out of pure exhaustion and being separated and left to die on the range alone. One horse was reported to have a traumatic injury. How do these practices meet the CAWP standards and why no accountability for not following these standards?	No mortalities or traumatic injuries related to gather operations occurred during the Sand Wash Basin gather. Two foals separated from the group and were brought into the trap. All CAWP standards were met.
fertility control	Getting 'balance' at any cost is not wise ecologically.. genetic erosion is due to use of Selective Breeding via PZP is causing genetic erosion and will lead to ultimate genetic failure.	The Bureau of Land Management will continue to monitor genetic diversity of wild horses remaining in the HMA. If genetic diversity, as measured by observed heterozygosity, is found to be excessively low, then periodic introductions of additional wild horses would augment genetic diversity.
fertility control	And how are those IUD's working out!	IUDs have not been used in any of Colorado's HMAs.
fertility control	Why is the BLM not hiring and designating BLM staff to do the PZP darting? Advocates/volunteers should not be the primary darters. I am interested in how "contractors" will be supervised and follow CAWP guidelines.	BLM Colorado uses grants to support volunteer groups, trained fire crews, and wild horse specialist to dart horses on the range. A contract would have specific monitoring plans developed to ensure quality. BLM Colorado is working towards more staffing in the program.
	That is not true growing at 20% is not correct	Free-roaming female horses typically have their first foals at 2–3 years of age, often produce foals in consecutive years, and remain reproductively active throughout their lives with only a small reduction in foaling rates in the oldest age classes (Speelman et al. 1944, Berger 1986, Siniff et al. 1986, Wolfe et al. 1989, Garrott et al. 1991). In addition, mortality rates for free-roaming horses are low as or lower than other similarly sized, native mammals (Berger 1986); annual survival estimates for adult horses have ranged from 70–80% (Wolfe 1980) to 95% and higher (National Research Council 1980, Berger 1986, Garrott and Taylor 1990). The result is that free-roaming horse populations can grow at annual rates of 15–20% or more per year (Eberhardt et al. 1982, Berger 1986, Garrott and Taylor 1990) and it is expected that most populations approach this biological potential because current management generally ensures that horses are not resource- or self-limited (National Research Council 2013).
fertility control	...you keep talking about 'balance' and out of the other side of your collective BLM mouths you talk about all the factors that go into making the situation unmanagable ... so that your only remedy is remove WH ... treating only the WH as PESTS ... why doesn't the BLM talk about darting deer & elk & other forms of wildlife?	The removal of wild horses and burros from public rangelands is carried out to ensure rangeland health, in accordance with land-use plans that are developed in an open, public process. These land-use plans are the means by which the BLM carries out its core mission, which is to manage the land for multiple uses while protecting the land's resources. The species you have listed have natural predators and their populations are kept in balance by nature; horses are invasive and do not have any natural method to control populations.
HMA gathers	How many Piceance wild horses were rounded up in the West Douglas Roundup as there were very few West Douglas Horses present since they were near wiped out in 2015?? The Piceance EA stated there were 450 Piceance East Douglas wild horses out of the HMA on West Douglas. So if the horses rounded up in WD were predominantly Piceance East Douglas wild horses...where are they? They are nowhere to be found!!	All horses gathered from West Douglas gather were from West Douglas Herd Area. Horses removed during the gather are at Canon City holding facility.
HMA gathers	Your numbers are off.	In March 2021 Bureau of Land Management (BLM) personnel conducted simultaneous double-observer aerial surveys, from a helicopter, of the wild horse abundance in the Piceance-East Douglas herd management area (HMA). 1,150 horses were determined to be in the HMA. An estimated population gain of 20% from the 2021 foal crop puts the population at 1,380 without counting 2022 foals.

Fertility Control	GonaCON will destroy the family of the native wild horse. This family structure is how they evolved to SURVIVE and is WHY people relate so closely to them.	The National Research Council (2013) found that harem changing was not likely to result in serious adverse effects for treated mares: "The studies on Shackleford Banks (Nuñez et al., 2009; Madosky et al., 2010) suggest that there is an interaction between pregnancy and social cohesion. The importance of harem stability to mare well-being is not clear but considering the relatively large number of free-ranging mares that have been treated with liquid PZP in a variety of ecological settings, the likelihood of serious adverse effects seem low."
TIP trainers	Tip needs to have vetted people	The TIP program requires training references for approval.
Adoption event standards	BLM is holding adoption events, on record telling folks, "You don't need horse experience, good for kids.."is this the standard for BLM wild mustangs?	Prior horse experience is not a requirement for adoption.
fertility control	Comment: EPA classifies PZP as a pesticide. PZP has NEVER stopped any roundups or slowed them down.	Contraception reduces the population growth rate and reduces gather frequency.
AIP/prison programs	All of the adoption programs, mustang make-overs, prisoner programs all listen well but only help less than 5% of horses taken off range	In fiscal year 2021 the total horses removed was: 13,666; the total placed into private care: 8,637. Over half of the horses removed are adopted and the others are on long-term corrals where they are cared for.
grazing/fertility control	The Ranchers get free grazing, you need to pay the darters.	BLM uses grants to support volunteer groups, trained fire crews, and wild horse specialists to dart horses on the range. A contract would have specific monitoring plans developed to ensure quality. Ranchers are required to pay for their permitted use.
Livestock forage allocation	The percentage of cattle still outweighs the number of horses for the amount of money spent	The Bureau of Land Management manages for multiple uses, as required by Federal Land Policy and Management Act. BLM issues permits and leases for domestic livestock grazing on public lands, as required by Taylor Grazing Act. BLM is following the laws. Horses and cattle also do not require the same amount of forage so they cannot be compared equally, which is why we follow AUM calculations.
MVH	Please share when the helicopter meeting was held this year.	April 26, 2022, from 3:00 to 5:00 P.M. Mountain Time and was held using Zoom video conferencing technology live-streamed at BLM.gov/live.
TIP trainers	TIP trainers lol u ean like the abuse Dawn M.? What a joke	Any reports of abuse are investigated. If the abuse report is found accurate, trainers and adopters become ineligible to adopt or train wild horse or burros.
Sale Barns	What is the BLM doing to stop horses going to slaughter after the adoption incentive?	As with all wild horse and burro adoptions since the program began decades ago, adopted animals can become the property of adopters after a year, through a process in which title to the animal is passed to the adopter. BLM does not always have the means or legal authority to track or direct the disposition of wild horses or burros once they pass into private ownership (i.e. once an animal is sold by BLM or an adopter receives title). If/when BLM becomes aware of freeze-marked animals arriving at commercial sale barns, the agency will conduct its due diligence to ensure the animals are in fact properly titled or sold. If they are not properly titled or sold, they remain subject to BLM's jurisdiction under the Wild Free-Roaming Horses and Burros Act. The agency will then move to repossess such animals, investigate the matter, and take appropriate legal or administrative action. The Adoption Incentive Program also allows the BLM to investigate any possible illegal commercial sales of BLM horses.
AIP/ events	If your goal is to adopt horses out then why do you only offer less than 100 out of 1000's of horses that need homes. Canon City used to have monthly adoption events. Why are there so few adoption events? Many wild horse photographers have offered to take photos of the horses at the facilities so you can hold more online adoptions.	The Canon City facility adoptions average five horses adopted at an adoption event due to constraints of access into a prison. Implementation of the Trainer Incentive Program (TIP), TIP Storefronts, and satellite adoptions within the state increased the private placement rate more than two-fold. Canon City continues to use photographers to aid in adopting animals. Adoption is sometimes a slow process but BLM coordinates these events as best as possible to ensure horses have an opportunity to be adopted.