

Topic	Question	Answer
Contraception / Fertility Control	What has BLM done in years past to regulate the wild horse population? (Particularly, why haven't you spent money authorized for PZP?)	BLM CO does apply contraception on range, including PZP, to reduce population growth rates and gather frequency. Recently, a grant was awarded to support on-range contraception. Additionally, fire crews have been trained to dart horses with contraception on-range. Unfortunately, the population has grown too high for contraceptives to be effective in preventing further growth of the herd. After AML is restored, fertility control can be used effectively.
When was AML set? Who?	How often are the AMLs reviewed and revised?	AMLs are based on productivity studies and ongoing monitoring in conjunction with other permitted uses. AMLs are established through the land-use planning process, which includes opportunities for the public to review and provide comment. The BLM manages all uses of the range, including livestock grazing, according to identified rangeland health standards.
When was AML set? Who?	when AML was established in 1971, that wasn't based on science, correct? that was just because that was the number free roaming at that time. Correct?	The term/idea of AML was introduced but the range has changed for different Herd Management Areas based on several factors including wildlife, water, forage, and more). AMLs are established through the land-use planning process and allows the public to provide comments. The AMLs also must consider all uses of the range, including livestock grazing.
WHB Act	The land was allocated for horses not for others (cattle hunting) as you mention so why not pull those permits/people to allow for more horses?? It was meant for them not others.	The Piceance East-Douglas area is considered for multiple-uses, and wild horses are just one aspect of the range. Horses are not the only livestock allowed in this area.
Gathers / use of bait traps	Is the BLM planning any other removals from the CO herds in the near future? Thanks.	Populations remaining above Appropriate Management Level after this gather and include: Piceance East Douglas HMA, Sand Wash Basin HMA, and the Little Book Cliffs Wild Horse Range. Areas above AML have the possibility of future gathers happening, but removals are scheduled at the national level subject to available funding and holding of removed animals. Yearly gather schedules are posted at www.blm.gov/whb .
Where will captured horses be held?	where will you put the horses you take from east douglas?	Horses are being sent to a contracted facility in Utah.
AUM calculation	Isn't it true that an AUM = one cow and one calf, so even though it's 7,000 AUM's, it's actually 14,000 cattle.	One cow-calf pair or 1 bull = 1 AUM; 7000 cow-calf pairs = 7000 AUMs; 6900 cow-calf pairs and 100 bulls = 7000 AUMs. The "calf" in the cow-calf pair is while the calf is suckling the mother, less than 6 months of age. If a calf enters BLM land after it is 6 months of age, it is treated differently in the AUM calculation.
Drought-climate/grazing	When cattle are off range they are eating grains and alfalfa grown on 70% of our nations crop lands which need to be rested. This is using almost half of our nations fresh water supplies. These annual plantings are contributing to climate change and unsequestering carbon as well as using up our aquifers and top soil flying. The blm cannot make the excuse that cattle are off the range 6 months because they are way more damaging year round and pumping methane.	BLM manages public lands in accordance with many laws and regulations. It has no control over management of lands outside of its jurisdiction or off the range in this case.
Population Surveys / HMAs/ AML	Do you have verifiable PROOF of these numbers? Or are you just making them up as many people think?	The BLM uses scientifically rigorous methods to estimate wild horse and burro populations, similar to how other wildlife populations are estimated. The BLM works with the U.S. Geological Survey (USGS) to conduct and analyze surveys to estimate wild horse and burro herd sizes. The methods use include "simultaneous double-count" and "photographic mark-resight" which are commonly used to survey wildlife populations.

Sage grouse	A healthy landscape would be removing ALL livestock! Period. HMAs should be managed for the wild horses and wildlife only. No grazing. You blame the horses for the reduction in sage grouse. I know for a fact that during the spring when sheep move through Sand Wash Basin, they most surely are damaging the nesting areas of the Sage Grouse. You cannot have waves of sheep come through the sagebrush and not damage the Sage Grouse nesting areas.	Livestock grazing is permitted in a manner consistent with the 2015 Northwest Colorado Greater Sage-Grouse Approved Resource Management Plan Amendment. Herd Management Areas are also allowed to be used for multiple-use purposes, including livestock grazing.
Who are the Wild Horse experts?	Can you tell us the criteria you'll use for horses removed?	Criteria for returning wild horses to the HMA may include age, animals that may be treated with fertility control, location of animals captured (any wild horses outside the HMA will not be returned), and overall health. Information from volunteer organizations may also be provided and considered on animals to be retained in the HMA. BLM will have the final responsibility and decision on what animals are retained/removed from the HMA.
Who are the Wild Horse experts?	Can you answer please who are the 'wild horse experts' that were used to access the horses condition?	Body Condition Scores are from evaluations performed by a veterinarian and veterinarian trained field staff.
Who are the Wild Horse experts?; Gathers / use of bait traps	Can the public view/observe the "Bait/Trap" activities in Piceance Basin? How can we do that if possible? and....Can the BLM do this gather with all "Bait/Trap"no helicopters in July?	During bait and water trap operations only essential gather operations personnel will be allowed at the trap site because wild horses are reluctant to approach the trap site when there is too much activity. The Drive-trap starting on July 15 will include helicopters and horseback riders.
Population Surveys / HMAs/ AML	what are the confidence intervals on the 1385 estimate of WHs ... your population overflights are full of undertainties...?	The BLM uses scientifically rigorous methods to estimate wild horse and burro populations, similar to how other wildlife populations are estimated. The BLM works with the U.S. Geological Survey (USGS) to conduct and analyze surveys to estimate wild horse and burro herd sizes. The methods use include "simultaneous double-count" and "photographic mark-resight" which are commonly used to survey wildlife populations.
Gathers / use of bait traps	BALONEY gathering mares is unnessary and cruel. If you were darting we wouldnt be here AFTER 50 YEARS!!!!	All 4 areas managed for horses in the state of Colorado have on-range contraception programs.
Canon City horses	I guess the BLM is afraid to answer questions about the dead horses? Where they went? If they even died? Who took the bodies? If you have nothing to hide.....should be easy to answer	The Canon City epidemic review has been completed. The deceased horses were sent to a sanitary landfill. All documents related to this incident have been made available on our website: https://www.blm.gov/programs/wild-horse-and-burro/herd-management/herd-management-areas/colorado
WHB Act	According to the law, the wild horses are to have priority use on the Wild Horse HMAs....if there are issues...the livestock must be removed. We had lots of rain, snow and precipitation over the Memorial Day weekend here on the Western slope as well as during April and May. The HMA should be in great shape right now for forage and water as has been reported in the Sand Wash Basin. We always see healthy wild horses on the range.	The BLM manages public lands for multiple uses as directed by law. The Wild Free-Roaming Horses and Burros Act prohibits placement and management of horses and burros on areas of public lands where they were not found when the Act was passed, and the Act directs the BLM to remove excess horses to preserve and maintain a thriving natural ecological balance and multiple-use relationship in an area. Livestock is also managed, through a permit system. It should be noted that removing livestock and other users of the land does not affect herd growth. Wild horse herds grow 15-20% annually and will always need to be managed to preserve land and herd health, regardless of whether they share the range with livestock or wildlife. Finally, the BLM must act now to gather animals before forage is completely depleted and body condition begins declines more precipitously. The BLM is dedicated to increasing the use of fertility control to manage wild horse populations. Each of the four herds in Colorado is part of an on-going fertility control program, including the Piceance-East Douglas herd where the BLM and its volunteers have already darted approximately 150 mares since 2021. However, while fertility control can play a role to slow growth, it cannot reduce the overpopulation that is already impacting the herd and the land. Gather and removal for adoption is the only way to quickly and humanely reduce overpopulation and protect animal and land health.
Use of helicopters	Why do you think it is ok to use helicopters to cruelly run these horse often with foals? There has to be a better way.	BLM 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.

AUM calculation	How was it determined that one horse AUM equals 1.5 cow calf pair, and when was that determination made?	The AUM calculations for horses and livestock are based on decades of independently verified science.
Colorado task force; budget staffing	Colorado's governor, the head of the House public lands subcommittee and many other CO public officials have called for the Piceance roundup to be halted until an INDEPENDENT investigation can be made of the Canon City wild horse deaths. Alan Bittner mentioned carrying capacity, but it appears that the BLM has far exceeded its capacity to properly care for captive wild equids. Why is the Bureau forging ahead?	BLM is managing for healthy lands and healthy horses. The Piceance East-Douglas HMA greatly exceeds its appropriate management level for the number of horses. The BLM has support and numerous letters of support from conservation districts, counties, conservation organizations, horse groups, and more. A review of Canon City, including independent parties, has been completed and the results are here: https://www.blm.gov/programs/wild-horse-and-burro/herd-management/herd-management-areas/colorado
AUM calculation	your AUM for cow/calf pair are based on cows from 1960 and cows today are much largers and consume way more forage ... so your basic presumption involving a 1960 cow/calf pair is bogus!	The AUM calculations for horses and livestock are based on decades of independently verified science.
Colorado Task Force	It appears that Governor Polis has tried reaching out to CO BLM to work on round up resolutions, but its fallen on deaf ears. Why is BLM not trying to work him?	The BLM continues to work closely with Governor Jared Polis on wild horse concerns and methods to keep herd size at the appropriate level in the future. The BLM has also proposed several potential solutions in which the state could play a part in.
Livestock numbers/Livestock population	Public lands should not be for livestock. Besides the lack of fairness you are forcing the tax payer to subsidize the wealthy ranchers.	The BLM manages public lands for multiple uses as directed by law. The Wild Free-Roaming Horses and Burros Act prohibits placement and management of horses and burros on areas of public lands where they were not found when the Act was passed, and the Act directs the BLM to remove excess horses to preserve and maintain a thriving natural ecological balance and multiple-use relationship in an area. Livestock is also managed, through a permit system. It should be noted that removing livestock and other users of the land does not affect herd growth. Wild horse herds grow 15-20% annually and will always need to be managed to preserve land and herd health, regardless of whether they share the range with livestock or wildlife. Finally, the BLM must act now to gather animals before forage is completely depleted and body condition begins declines more precipitously. The BLM is dedicated to increasing the use of fertility control to manage wild horse populations. Each of the four herds in Colorado is part of an on-going fertility control program, including the Piceance-East Douglas herd where the BLM and its volunteers have already darted approximately 150 mares since 2021. However, while fertility control can play a role to slow growth, it cannot reduce the overpopulation that is already impacting the herd and the land. Gather and removal for adoption is the only way to quickly and humanely reduce overpopulation and protect animal and land health. "
Canon City horses	The issues in canon city, is it actually an outbreak of strangles?	All details on Canon City and the cause of the outbreak are available on our website: https://www.blm.gov/programs/wild-horse-and-burro/herd-management/herd-management-areas/colorado
Population Surveys / HMAs/ AML	If HMAs that were established 50 years ago can no longer support horses due to climate change, why is the BLM not establishing new HMAs on the abundance of public lands to meet the needs of wild horses and burros today?	The BLM cannot create new HMAs in areas where they did not presently exist at the time of the Wild Free-Roaming Horses and Burros Act of 1971. We are limited in designating Herd Management Areas.
Horses are native	Horses are grazing year round. yes. They are native.	All available, credible evidence indicates that the free-roaming horses in North America today are the direct descendants of domesticated horses. Regardless of their ancestry, the BLM is still responsible for managing horses to AML under the Wild Free-Roaming Horses and Burros Act.

AUM calculation/When was AML set? Who?	So does the BLM allocate AUMs first? Then those AUMs determine how many cows are allowed on the range?	The BLM is directed by law to manage wild horses and burros on public lands as part of a multiple-use mission, which allows for a variety of uses of public lands, including for livestock grazing. The BLM works with permittees to adjust grazing as needed to maintain good rangeland health, including during periods of severe drought, which has led many permittees to voluntarily reduce grazing. When all uses of public lands are properly managed, we can ensure healthy wild horses and burros can exist alongside other authorized uses of public lands while maintaining good rangeland health.
AUM calculation	It's well documented that cattle are significantly larger now than they were in 1971, while the horses are not. When was the last time the BLM reevaluated it's AUM equivalencies? 1 cow/calf pair likely no longer = 1 wild horse.	The standard for AUM conversions, within the Federal Land Management Agencies, remains 1 AUM per cow-calf pair, bull, or horse. The figures are based on many factors, not just size.
Where will captured horses be held?	To which facility in Utah will the horses be transported after capture?	The Axtell facility in Utah.
Livestock forage allocation	When are "available forage amounts" regarding livestock needs assessed! Immediately after "gathers"?	This information can be found at https://eplanning.blm.gov/eplanning-ui/project/2003177/510
Livestock forage allocation	I know that cattle and horses eat different things. Horses will not eat the stuff cows do. Dont they keep the fire problem down by eating forage.	Fire ecology and vegetative management is very complex. Fire has been suppressed, or removed from the landscape for many decades and as a result, the vegetation has changed. Yes, horses can eat forage that might help prevent fires but that may not always be enough to prevent fires since ecosystems are complex. Wild horses grazing hasn't reduced the fire problems in the Great Basin thus far with a population over 30,000. Overgrazing can also increase invasive non-native species such as cheatgrass which is detrimental to an ecosystem.
CAWP	How does Cañon City plan to enhance biosecurity to both ensure horses are protected from disease outbreaks and espically to protect the horses currently at risk for contracting strangles?	The final Canon City review outlines recommendations for the BLM moving forward after this tragedy. Please view here: https://www.blm.gov/programs/wild-horse-and-burro/herd-management/herd-management-areas/colorado
Use horses for fire management	With all of the wildfires in the West, why is the wild horse fire brigade method where horses eat the undergrowth that contributes to containing the out of control fires, not being utilized or even tested on public lands?	Please see above. Yes, horses can eat forage that might help mitigate fires, but that may not always be enough to prevent fires since ecosystems are complex. Wild horses grazing hasn't reduced the fire problems in the Great Basin thus far.
Where will captured horses be held?	it is understood horses are held in contracted facility the question i read was what is the facility you are sending them to.	The Axtell Facility in Utah.
Canon City horses	Weren't the Canon City horses vaccinated? How close is Canon City to full capacity?	Canon City can hold 2,950 horses and held approximately 2,550 horses at the time of the outbreak. All details of vaccinations are available on our website. Please view here: https://www.blm.gov/programs/wild-horse-and-burro/herd-management/herd-management-areas/colorado
AUM calculation	How are the actual AUM used reported and paid for. And are the permittees reporting their own usage.	The BLM issues a bill for grazing use either before the season starts or after the season ends. Before the season bills are based on the permitted AUMs. The bills issued after the grazing season are based on what the permittee or lessee actually did, which is reported to the BLM.
WHB Act	Big Deal, the cattle permittees pay 1.35/month FREE money after the 86Billion FARM Bill. This Farm bill should be used FOR THE WILD HORSES.	We have no jurisdiction over what funds in this bill should or shouldn't be used for.
Canon City horses	What about the strangles outbreak?	Canon City review, reports, and more information can be found here: https://www.blm.gov/programs/wild-horse-and-burro/herd-management/herd-management-areas/colorado

Canon City horses	What about the strangles issue going on right now	Canon City review, reports, and more information can be found here: https://www.blm.gov/programs/wild-horse-and-burro/herd-management/herd-management-areas/colorado
Livestock forage allocation	If there is a lack of forage and water, shouldn't the cattle be the first to be removed? Shouldn't grazing permits be banned and not voluntary?	The BLM is directed by law to manage wild horses and burros on public lands as part of a multiple-use mission, which allows for a variety of uses of public lands, including for livestock grazing. The BLM works with permittees to adjust grazing as needed to maintain good rangeland health, including during periods of severe drought, which has led many permittees to voluntarily reduce grazing. When all uses of public lands are properly managed, we can ensure healthy wild horses and burros can exist alongside other authorized uses of public lands while maintaining good rangeland health.
Science based	The National Academy of Sciences, in its 2013 report on BLM's Wild Horse & Burro Program, found that AMLs were outdated and not based on science. Instead, the BLM has stuck with these artificial population limits, which according to leading equine geneticist Gus Cothran are in most cases too low to assure genetic health. Why hasn't the BLM implemented the NAS's recommendations?	The Environmental Analysis can be found at https://eplanning.blm.gov/eplanning-ui/project/2003177/510 . The study you have references has been largely misinterpreted. NAS's Board on Agricultural and Natural Resources (BANR), which oversees the academy's natural resource studies, issued a special-edition newsletter in July 2013 that said: " <u>Some news accounts have incorrectly reported</u> that the study found that the Bureau should stop gathers and 'let nature cull any excess herds.' In fact, the report recommends more intensive management of the horses and burros..." BANR then cited several management measures recommended by the report, 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.
When was AML set? Who?	Wild horses have what is called an Appropriate Management Level (AML) of 12,811 that translates to 153,732 AUMs. If wild horses were at 4 times AML the AUMs would equal 614,928. That number is still a fraction of what is allotted to domestic livestock. Why can't more horses be allowed to remain free?	The BLM manages public lands for multiple uses as directed by law. The Wild Free-Roaming Horses and Burros Act prohibits placement and management of horses and burros on areas of public lands where they were not found when the Act was passed, and the Act directs the BLM to remove excess horses to preserve and maintain a thriving natural ecological balance and multiple-use relationship in an area. Livestock is also managed, through a permit system. It should be noted that removing livestock and other users of the land does not affect herd growth. Wild horse herds grow 15-20% annually and will always need to be managed to preserve land and herd health, regardless of whether they share the range with livestock or wildlife. Finally, the BLM must act now to gather animals before forage is completely depleted and body condition begins declines more precipitously. The BLM is dedicated to increasing the use of fertility control to manage wild horse populations. Each of the four herds in Colorado is part of an on-going fertility control program, including the Piceance-East Douglas herd where the BLM and its volunteers have already darted approximately 150 mares since 2021. However, while fertility control can play a role to slow growth, it cannot reduce the overpopulation that is already impacting the herd and the land. Gather and removal for adoption is the only way to quickly and humanely reduce overpopulation and protect animal and land health.
CAWP/Tested & vaccinated	Is BLM CO evaluating any type of change to the initial vaccination protocol?	The final Canon City review outlines recommendations for the BLM moving forward after this tragedy. Please view here: https://www.blm.gov/programs/wild-horse-and-burro/herd-management/herd-management-areas/colorado
Staffing & Budget	Alan Bittner, can you be specific as to how the staffing and maintenance issues at Canon City are currently being addressed, as you mentioned? Thank you.	BLM Colorado is in the process of adding new positions and ensuring staff are properly trained.
Canon City horses	What's been done with all the bodies?	The bodies have been sent to a sanitary landfill.
Canon City horse	Regarding the non vaccinations of the horses, an investigation showed that the BLM staff did not properly vaccinate the horses in a timely manner.	Horses received the vaccinations and examinations outlined in BLM Policy. There is no requirement on when to begin vaccinating for Equine Influenza.
staffing/budget	We have read the internal investigation report and some of the areas of failure was stallions in mare and foal pens that were not removed due to a lack of budget and staff.	A gate had failed and horses were later resorted into the proper pens.

CAWP/vaccination	why didn't you vaccinate the SWB horses when they arrived like your CAWP claims should be done your constantly generating bogus excuses are completely unsatisfactory & pure CYA...	Sand Wash Basin horses were vaccinated in accordance with BLM policy.
Population Surveys / HMA's	Is HMAP part of BLM requirements before rounding up horses or burros?	The Interior Board of Land Appeals (IBLA) has affirmed that an HMAP is not required to establish the existence of excess animals (109 IBLA 127). Three of the four HMA's have HMAPs, the remaining HMAP will be completed as staffing levels allow.
Transporting animals	are the horses transported in trailers used for cattle? are they properly sterilized before?	Horses are not transported in trailers used for cattle, there are very specific guidelines that must be followed for safe horse transport. The trailers are sterilized following the Comprehensive Animal Welfare Program guidelines.
Canon City/research	Again, can you please tell us what 4 university's are analyzing Canon City Outbreak	The universities include: UC Davis, Colorado State University, Texas A&M, and the Gluck Institute at the University of Kentucky
Horses are native	it doesn't come down to Congress WH are native to North America... and that's been scientifically established...	The BLM is required by law to manage wild horses regardless of their ancestry. The BLM's management of wild horses and burros on public lands follows requirements of the 1971 Wild Free-Roaming Horses and Burros Act. Although it may be interesting from a scientific perspective, the evolutionary history of horses does not influence the BLM's wild horse management. Caballine horses did evolve in North America, but paleontological evidence shows that they died out in the area of the lower 48 states around the end of the last ice age.
Predators	Why does the BLM keep perpetuating the misinformation that wild horses have no natural predators?	There are no natural predators in Colorado that can effectively control wild horse and burro population growth on public lands.
Canon City/CAWP	It is my understanding that strangles has been detected in the facility now, with, at least one death. Can we have an update on the strangles outbreak? This is a frequently seen disease in killpens. A phone call with then state vet of Colorado said that the any facility with an outbreak should follow AAEP protocol. Is the facility following that protocol?	The Canon City epidemic review has been completed. Any information about the disease or pathogens found in this outbreak can be found in Situation Reports on our website: https://www.blm.gov/programs/wild-horse-and-burro/herd-management/herd-management-areas/colorado
Horses are native	THEY ARE NATIVE AND THIS IS FALSE SCIENCE TO SAY THEY ARE NOT	The BLM is required by law to manage wild horses regardless of their ancestry. Although it may be interesting from a scientific perspective, the evolutionary history of horses does not influence the BLM's wild horse management. Caballine horses did evolve in North America, but paleontological evidence shows that they died out in the area of the lower 48 states around the end of the last ice age. The wild horses we have in North America today are not the same species that was originally here. These species are quite different, physically and genetically.
Transporting animals/ fertility control	Where will the horses from the Piceance bait trap be transported to? How many of the mares will be treated with PZP GONA CON and how many will be inserted IUDxs.	They will be sent to the Axtell facility in Utah. The gather plan is to catch 1,050 horses and remove 750 horses. The remaining 300 horses will be returned to the range, and approximately 1/2 of returned horses will be mares receiving GonaCon. Inserted IUDxs are not planned to be used at this time.
fertility control	Alan Bittner, can you share the BLM future fertility control plan you have ideally have developed. Proposal for contractor to be hired to do the PZP darting and how quickly could this happen? It is my understanding from the Piceance Mustang Advocacy Group that approximately 140 to 150 mares were PZP darted last fall 2021 by BLM wildland firefighter. Are any BLM staff going to be hired to do the PZP darting?	Contracting will be assessed depending on the HMA and prioritized by need where staff and partnerships are unable to meet the need. We do not currently have plans to hire specific BLM positions for PZP darting but BLM Colorado does use 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.

Population Surveys / HMAs/ AML	So Alan how can BLM remove and zero out HMAs without Congressional approval?	The BLM is not "zeroing out" Herd Management Areas. We have been directed by Congress under the Wild Free-Roaming Horses and Burros Act of 1971 to manage herds to a healthy, appropriate management level. We have a responsibility through Congress to gather horses.
Horses are native	Craig C. Downer, wildlife ecologist has shown that our North American horses never went extinct and that they are a native species. Horses range more than 20 miles from water where cattle and sheep stay within a mile or 2 of water and devastate the environment.	The BLM is required by law to manage wild horses regardless of their ancestry. Although it may be interesting from a scientific perspective, the evolutionary history of horses does not influence the BLM's wild horse management. Caballine horses did evolve in North America, but paleontological evidence shows that they died out in the area of the lower 48 states around the end of the last ice age. The wild horses we have in North America today are not the same species that was originally here. These species are quite different, physically and genetically.
Horses are native	It doesn't seem fair for wild horses to be removed from their native habitat so instead of the cows and calves, who are not wild.	The BLM is required by law to manage wild horses regardless of their ancestry. Although it may be interesting from a scientific perspective, the evolutionary history of horses does not influence the BLM's wild horse management. Caballine horses did evolve in North America, but paleontological evidence shows that they died out in the area of the lower 48 states around the end of the last ice age. The wild horses we have in North America today are not the same species that was originally here. These species are quite different, physically and genetically.
Canon City horses A250	where autopsies performed with all dead horses at Canon City? If so, when, where and by whom have they been performed? Where were the dead bodies disposed off? Did BLM document which horses died? Will their freezebrands and descriptions be published?	Necropsy reports, Situation Reports, and other reports or evaluations have been made available on our website with all dates posted/associated. On each report, you can also find who completed the report or necropsy. Bodies have been sent to a Sanitary Landfill. At this point, we do not have a report outlining freezebrand or descriptions, just the pen # where the horses were located. The Canon City epidemic review has been completed. Any information about the disease or pathogens found in this outbreak can be found in Situation Reports on our website: https://www.blm.gov/programs/wild-horse-and-burro/herd-management/herd-management-areas/colorado
Gathers/On-Range Corrals/Holding Facilities	Why does the BLM gather the wild horses and put them in holding when it is more cost effective to provide food and water on the land/HMA?	BLM is committed to managing healthy wild horse and burro herds in an ecologically sustainable way. This involves maintaining herd populations that are in balance with the land, including through periodic removals and humane population growth suppression (e.g. fertility control). Providing supplemental feed to wild horses and burros on the range where herd sizes exceed the carrying capacity of the land – due to scarcity of forage or other limiting factors – can actually be counterproductive. By supporting a population that's already too large for available natural resources, the result would be even more severe overgrazing and longer lasting impacts to the land. Supplemental feeding herds can also cause localized resource impacts by compacting soil, increasing erosion and disrupting water sources for wildlife. The influence that supplemental feeding can have on the animals' wild free-roaming behavior is also a concern, as they can easily become habituated to human interventions. For these reasons, supplemental feeding is not among the principal management tools BLM uses to achieve its goal of healthy herds on healthy rangelands.
Population Surveys / HMAs/ AML; On-Range Corrals/Holding Facilities	What is BLM's latest best estimate of how many Wild Horses are ACTUALLY remaining in the West? How many are currently in holding?	Nationwide estimates are currently at 82,384 horses. For more information please visit - https://www.blm.gov/programs/wild-horse-and-burro/about-the-program/program-data
fertility control	When and where will you be using GonaCon instead of PZP?	GonaCon is being used in Piceance East Douglas Herd Management Area.
CAWP/body conditions	The horses look in better shape in the wild then when kept in the holding pens why is that ?	Forced perspective photography is a large part of this misconception.
Population Surveys / HMAs/ AML	Herd Management Area Plans (HMAPs) are required from BLM before they can carry out any roundups. Yet only 7 of 177 Herd Management Areas have done this foundation work. Has BLM CO done updated HMAPs for the Piceance, Sand Wash Basin and others in CO?	The Interior Board of Land Appeals (IBLA) has affirmed that an HMAP is not required to establish the existence of excess animals (109 IBLA 127). Three of the four HMAs have HMAPs, the remaining HMAP will be completed as staffing levels allow.

Horses are native	<p>congress should follow the current science from Dr ROss Macphee of the American Museum of Natural History.</p> <p>"Although mammoths are gone forever, horses are not...The horses that lived in the Yukon 5,000 years ago is directly related to the horses species we have today, Equus caballus. Biologically, this makes the horse a native North American mammal, and it should be treated as such."</p>	<p>The BLM is required by law to manage wild horses regardless of their ancestry. Although it may be interesting from a scientific perspective, the evolutionary history of horses does not influence the BLM's wild horse management. Caballine horses did evolve in North America, but paleontological evidence shows that they died out in the area of the lower 48 states around the end of the last ice age. The wild horses we have in North America today are not the same species that was originally here. These species are quite different, physically and genetically.</p>
Public information	<p>How can we trust that you are telling us the truth with accurate information? where is the Independent information and not just from the BLM? I believe there are a lot of people who don't trust the BLM.</p>	<p>The BLM posts all planning decisions on the ePlanning website. BLM data used for any decision is available to the public. BLM uses monitoring methodologies that are used by other agencies, private entities, and non-government organizations. Although we try to post any studies, science, or other information from our partners on social media on our website, you can also reach out to wildhorse@blm.gov for specific requests on information.</p>
WHB Act	<p>How do you feel about the necessity of modernizing these laws, versus constantly quoting 1934 and 1971?</p>	<p>The BLM must follow the current laws, and the Wild Free-Roaming Horses and Burros Act of 1971 is current. Changes to this law would need to be enacted by Congress.</p>
Livestock grazing	<p>Wouldn't charging the ranchers more money for using our public lands pay for the care of the horses.</p>	<p>The grazing fee is described in the 43 CFR 4100 regulations. The monies collected from grazing fees do not go towards caring for wild horses and burros. Congress would have to change several laws in order to redirect those monies to caring for wild horses and burros.</p>
WHB Act	<p>The WH&B Plan is a Land Use Plan and with it come water rights. It is time to stop killing horses by denying the water when the cattle are off.</p>	<p>Water rights are controlled by the State in which the water is developed. BLM must apply for water rights just like any other user. The Land Use Plan does not provide those rights.</p>
Livestock grazing	<p>It's the fact that the federal government is removing the horses that are ecologically well-adapted to dry conditions of the arid West and replacing them with cattle that are suited only to moist climates and are far more damaging to arid public lands.</p>	<p>Livestock breeds have adapted to a variety of environments, including arid lands. We are removing horses because we are obligated to do so under the Wild Free-Roaming Horses and Burros Act of 1971. There is not enough forage available in the Piceance East Douglas Herd Management Area to sustain the ecological balance required for a healthy range, nor a healthy herd.</p>
public land use	<p>How does the BLM make sure that the Permitted users is actually using Public lands in accordance to the permit? If the BLM does not count the number of livestock being placed on & off the Public Lands? & Why is the "permitted" user asked to volunteer reduction and not "told" by the BLM, who is actually in charge of managing Public Lands? Wild horse advocates are "told" what the BLM is going to do with America's Public Lands, yet livestock permits are voluntary. Note livestock is a permitted Use of the public lands and wild horses are a National resource of Public lands.</p>	<p>Allotments are inspected and monitored for permit or lease compliance. The Field Manager works with the permittees and lessees to change management in responses to fire and drought. Livestock permits, as directed by Taylor Grazing Act, are not voluntary.</p>
Canon city	<p>How many acres is canon city? How can you justify thousands of Wild horses on such little land subjected to filth & disease vs leaving them on hundreds of thousands of acres.</p>	<p>Over 100 Acres. The area available for horses surpasses the Comprehensive Animal Welfare Program requirements.</p>
staffing/budget	<p>Why is BLM leaving vacant, budgeted positions open, while constantly claiming they are understaffed, resulting in various debacles an inability to fulfill mandates?</p>	<p>BLM Colorado added 3 positions to the Table of Organization to address staffing shortages. We are in the process of making those positions available to be filled.</p>

drought/wells; Water sources?	why not have the army corp of engineers drill wells?	This activity is outside of the purvue of the US Army Corps of Engineers
Population Surveys / HMAS/ AML	What is the science behind AMLs? I realise it's related to RMPs but how exactly are they set, please?	The AML for the PEDHMA was increased from a population range of 95-140 wild horses to the current range of 135-235 wild horses in 2002 following an in-depth analysis of monitoring data collected over several years and by utilizing the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) Decision Making Processes.
Adoption/rescue	How many horses could be saved by giving them to the wild horse rescues?	BLM Colorado places many horses with horse rescues, however they have holding capacities limiting the number of animals placed into private care with them.
Public information	Can anyone watch the horses on your cameras?	BLM Colorado does not have web based cameras. There will be public viewing opportunity at the gather, in person.
grazing/Livestock forage allocation	Have cattle been removed from the range due to drought?	Each Field Office is managing drought responses for the allotments within their boundaries. There have been voluntary cattle reductions.
equine management	Aren't horses actually SAFER left in the wild than they are in the "care" of BLM?	A lack of forage due to 100% utilization of the range is not safe for wild horses. Starvation and dehydration are imminent without a gather to help manage the herd population to a sustainable size.
universities	You said 4 universities: Gluck, UC-	The University of California Davis, Colorado State Univesity, Texas A&M, and the Gluck Institute at the University of Kentucky.
gather	It is my understanding the there was a bait and trap gather of the Piceance wild horses all winter long last year on the Greesewood Allotment. How many horses were taken off from that bait and trap gather and where did they go?	No horses were gathered in the Greesewood Allotment. 18 horses were gathered in about 30 days within the HMA.
CAWP/body conditions	What was the average body condition of the horses rounded up last September in the Sand Wash Basin?	Body Condition Scores averaged 4 during the Sand Wash Basin Gather.
Public land health/carrying capacity	The forage showed 100% utilization last fall. Wouthout removals this year, there will be 100% utilization much earlier and there would be an emergency gather with horses in trouble.	Correct.
	Wildlife are allowed on public lands unless they fence them out.	Wildlife is not intentionally fenced out of public lands.
grazing/fencing	Isn't Colorado a free range state? If so, aren't private land owners responsible for fencing off their land, if they don't want either horses or cattle on their land?	Colorado is a fence-out state. Private land owners are responsible to fence out other users, if they choose. This doesn't apply to public lands. The federal government still has an obligation to prevent wild horses from trespassing on private lands.
Bait Trap contractor	Who's contracted for the bait trap roundup?	BLM staff are conducting the bait trap.
public access/gather-bait trap	BLM only allows the public to view the trapping of WH from a considerable distance ... and sometimes hide the traumatization of the WH ... why can't people be allowed closer to the trap sites?	Distance for viewing is based on safety of viewers and preventing impacts to gather operations.
SWB	if you worked with SWAT in sand wash basin why did you round up Michelangelo? He supposedly is in a closed sanctuary but no one has seen him	SWAT provided input into 49 returned horses to the range.

grazing	why does BLM only charge \$1.35 per AUM for cattle/sheep when typically rates are much, much higher?	The Federal Regulations stipulate how much is charged based on the formula described in the regulations.
grazing	The Taylor Grazing Act allows for the permittee to be removed at any time. It is not an ownership Mr. Bittner.	Taylor Grazing Act provides for permitting and leasing public lands for domestic livestock grazing. The regulations provide for the closure of allotments. It is specific and cannot be "removed at any time."
Population Surveys / HMAS/ AML	It saddens me as a native that only 812 horses can be maintained in Colorado on public land. The 2,600 once free horses is heartbreaking on 1,500 SF.....there quality of life must be considered...	Managing for horses at appropriate management level (AML) provides horses the best quality of life by providing quality forage and maintaining healthy lands. Managing at AML also ensures long term viability of horse herds well into the future because we are in balance with nature.
wildlife population	How Many Deer?	Colorado Parks and Wildlife manage deer and track population numbers.
wildlife population	How many Elk?	This information is collected by the State - https://cpw.state.co.us/conservation/Pages/CON-Elk.aspx#:~:text=At%20over%20280%2C000%20animals%2C%20Colorado's,to%20hear%20their%20distinctive%20bugle.
drought	What is the change in precipitation and what is the cause?	You can find changes from the 30 year averages for precipitation here.
AIP/Sale Barns	Reading Chris Maestas' response to the slaughter question. Unfortunately, we mostly are aware of the problems with the adoption scheme despite the safeguards. If I may say so, it's very important to be transparent here.	The bill of sale, among other things, states that the buyer agrees not to process any of the sold horses or burros into commercial products, or to knowingly sell or transfer ownership to any person or organization whose intent is to commercially process the animals.
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 perform gathers and we perform fertility-control.
Population Surveys / HMAS/ AML	Has an independent assessment of habitat conditions been carried out in 2022?	A third-party contractor performed comprehensive range monitoring to determine utilization by what class of livestock. Results found 100% utilization in 2021. 84% of the utilization was from horses and 14% was from cattle during the grazing season. Comprehensive monitoring requires a full-year of data collection, so a 2022 study would not be complete while we are still in 2022.
grazing/Livestock forage allocation	If drought and welfare of horses is a key concern, why doesn't BLM invoke 43 CFR § 4710.5(a) and remove any or all classes of livestock, so the wild horses have plenty of forage and water?	In 2021, there was already a 100% utilization of forage on the range; 84% utilization was by horses. The population of horses has only grown since then, so more forage/water is not a long-term sustainable option.
Population Surveys / HMAS/ AML	The WHB 1971 asks for updates every two years. How can data setting AML from 20 years continue to be used?	Setting AML requires long-term monitoring of resources to determine trends in resources or populations. Data from 20 years ago is still relevant since it helps us understand the full ecology of the range. More data, regardless of age, will always help scientists analyze the full story behind the range and help the BLM make the best management decisions.
Drought/grazing	This (water) is being utilized arbitrarily to WIPE out and IGNORE the majority of the US Citizens regarding their native wild horses. Moreover, the "DROUGHT" is caused by the cattle per the IPCC we need to immediately reduce Methane. This is 1/3 the cause of climate change.	While drought can impact water sources, the primary impact is to available forage which is currently being depleted by the overpopulated wild horse herds.

BLM/livestock; Name the cattle ranchers/ BLM employees A64	How many BLM employees have a vested interest in the livestock allowances on BLM- managed areas? As in, an immediate (personal) interest, family interest, secondary family interest in the gathering, holding, auctioning, adoption of wild horses?	BLM employees are held to certain ethical standards. The employee may not actively hold a grazing permit or lease, especially within the office(s) he/she works in or can influence. BLM employees are also held to certain ethical standards when it comes to management of wild horses. They can adopt horses; however, they cannot participate in the Adoption Incentive Program.
Public information	will that utah facility be available to public	The Axtell facility is a contract facility. A public tour of the facility is conducted once a year.
WHB Act	How many other states participate?	10 states have horses protected under the Wild Free-Roaming Horses and Burros Act.
public land use	Why was public commenting asked for concerning the "ATV Park" in Sand Wash Basin many months after the agreement was made with the City of Craig to go ahead with the "park"? This will be detrimental to all life in Sand Wash Basin.	The Sand Wash Basin Recreation Area Management Plan proposes to improve signage and may provide an area for a vault toilet and designated camping. The recreation area already exists and there is no increased acreage proposed for the plan. Currently, the Sand Wash Basin allows for dispersed camping and off-trail vehicle recreation.
WHB Act	Thanks for having this session. Alan Bittner has referenced the 1971 Wild Free-Roaming Horses and Burros Act many times, citing multiple use. Why not mention that the 1971 Act provides that wild horses be protected on the lands where they were found at that time, and that those areas be managed for the PRINCIPAL USE of these wild equids?	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 exist in several states including the Little Book Cliffs Wild Horse Range in Colorado.
Canon City/CAWP	your report from 6/10 says illness and respiratory was observed ? A dozen forms of respiratory, bacteria, strangles. Can you address this from your last update?	Several pathogens had been found, this outbreak was a multi-bacterial issue which is not uncommon. Any specific information about the disease or pathogens can be found in Situation Reports on our website: https://www.blm.gov/programs/wild-horse-and-burro/herd-management/herd-management-areas/colorado
CAWP	Axtell has had several quarantines in recent years—why is that a good thing?	Private and government facilities will periodically need to have a quarantine. This is a common biosecurity method used to minimize risk of possible exposures. Disease can be spread by insects or other animals at any time, so quarantine can help mitigate large outbreaks.
Adoption; On-Range Corrals/Holding Facilities	Cañon City and Wheatland WY are both under quarantine. Two large facilities that can handle 3000 horses. Wouldn't more smaller facilities make sense? What would it take to get a short term / adoption facility closer to the HMAs in Western Colorado? Gather, process and adopt within a reasonable 60 to 90 days not 8 months to a year.	Additional facilities will require a significant increase in funding. Our current focus is to increase staffing at the facilities we have to minimize the potential for issues like the Canon City outbreak.
Public access to facility / events	Why are you denying the Public their right to access holding facilities? Delta, Canon City, Axtell, Wheatland and more??? This is against our first Amendment rights??	Public viewing and free speech are not related. Access at facilities is determined by safety, contracts, and workloads.
CAWP	what about the BLM facility in Wheatland and the strangles outbreak?	Wild horses at the Wheatland facility are still showing signs of strangles and adoption events remain paused at this time. We continue to monitor and treat the animals while evaluating when we can reopen the facility for adoptions
Adoption/CAWP	Why are horses going through adoption events in worse body condition than they were in when they were gathered?	Initial stress of acclimating to holding, adoption preparation, and gelding may be seen in some body condition loss in the short term.
Adoption	Do you register these Horses to their adoptive owners?	Adopted horses are tracked up through titling of the animal.

Budget-cost/inflation concerns	How is the BLM staying within their budget for the Wild Horse and Burro Program with the escalating fuel and feed costs? Have you considered these factors are also going to impact adoption numbers?	Increase in cost can effect gather, holding, adoption and transport cost but we make it a priority to participate in adoption events when possible. The BLM works with our support staff to ensure we are within our budget and get the most done with the resources we have.
Population Surveys / HMAs/ AML	Why does the population exceed AML year after year until roundups and removal are necessary ? If it is a management issue why not contract ON the range management to the Stakeholders. If BLM can contract for OFF range management why not contract for ON range mgmnt at the OFF range per head per day rate ?	Gathers are based on national funding and prioritization. There are ten other states who must manage herds so Colorado is not always the priority. BLM is committed to managing healthy wild horse and burro herds in an ecologically sustainable way. This involves maintaining herd populations that are in balance with the land, including through periodic removals and humane population growth suppression (e.g. fertility control).
Population Surveys / HMAs	that's Kate Shoenecker in FtCollins and the BLM guy is Paul Griffen ... there are still lots of uncertainties and assumptions in generating population estimates ... the BLM should undertake real-time counting using video-tape to actually count the WH this is proven technology!	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.
Population Surveys / HMAs/ AML	how do we work towards horse only designation in other hma's	Congress would need to designate another or re-designate a Herd Management Area to horses only.
Public information	Will BLM endeavor to rpvide a transcript of ALL questions that were asked here - as well as your ANSWERS - that are not duplicates of other questions?	We will release answers to questions that do not include profanity, have not already been asked, were not answered live, and actually include a question - rather than a statement.
On-Range Corrals/Holding Facilities; future gathers	With the disease still going on at the holding facilities, where are you going to put the horses you want to round up next month?	They will go to the Axtell Facility in Utah.
AIP	The Adoption Incentive Program has landed horses in kill pens as soon as soon as title is cleared, what actions have you taken to protect the horses once they are adopted?	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. The bill of sale states that animals will not be sold to slaughter, kill pens, or any commercial-use. Under AIP, when the BLM is notified about a freeze-marked wild horse or burro being offered for sale, BLM officials identify the animal in the database to determine its disposition (adopted, titled, sold, transferred, or deceased). The agency investigates any possible violations of the Prohibited Acts and takes appropriate administrative or legal action. This could include returning the animal to BLM care, barring the adopter from participating in the adoption program in the future or referring the case to U.S. Attorneys for possible prosecution. If the animal is titled, BLM will provide a letter to the requestor confirming its status.
Canon City/public information	Was monensin poisoning found in the Canon City necropsies? Where can we find veterinarian reports on the horses?	All records can be found on our website, along with daily Situation Reports. Poisoning was not noted as a cause for this outbreak - https://www.blm.gov/programs/wild-horse-and-burro/herd-management/herd-management-areas/colorado .

On-Range Corrals/Holding Facilities; Public access to facility / event	This question focuses on Horse Holding Facilities. Many facilities like Canon City and Axtell in Utah do not allow public access and viewing of wild horses. It would be great to have better public access to these facilities and transparency of what is happening to our wild horses. (1) Would the BLM be willing to increase public access to many of the facilities and would you be willing to place live "Webcams" in facilities, so the general public to observe care of our wild horses???? (2) Would BLM be willing to consider holding facilities with smaller numbers 500 or so, so if disease outbreaks occur there are less horse negatively impacted.	Access is determined by the contract, and/or workloads. Some of the facilities are within prison complexes. Cameras on contractor equipment by public goes against several regulations. Developing new facilities would depend on budget and the available contracts.
Population Surveys / HMAs/ AML	Herd Management Area Plans are mandated by the 1971 act for each HMAs. Do you have current Herd Management Area Plans for each of the HMAs tht would help avoid the current situation?	Three of the four HMAs have HMAPs. The remaining HMAP will be completed as staffing leveles allow.
Public Information	do you have photo proof of life showing freezemark of these 2600 horses?	Staff is not available to take photos of all horses.
Population Surveys / HMAs/ AML	If the last update to AML numbers was completed 20 years ago, is there a need for more moern numbers? Is this a priority of the BLM?	AML is based on a thriving natural ecological balance. Current monitoring shows degregation of resources. If AML is recalculated under the current conditions, it may need to be lowered due to drought conditions.
Livestock numbers/Livestock population	Why can't you give exact numbers of the cattle & sheep on public lands. But you say you have exact counts for the wild horses?	Permits and leases stipulate the number of domestic livestock that can be on allotments. The permittee/lessee has discretion within the the permitted/leased numbers to make adjustments. It is not a requirement to report these adjustments to the BLM, unless it is specified in the Terms and Conditions.
Canon City horses /CAWP	Please address the new strangles outbreak	All records can be found on our website, along with daily Situation Reports - https://www.blm.gov/programs/wild-horse-and-burro/herd-management/herd-management-areas/colorado .
Canon City/CAWP	I understand there is now a Strangles outbreak in Canon Cty, if this is true how many horses are ill, how many deaths?	All records can be found on our website, along with daily Situation Reports - https://www.blm.gov/programs/wild-horse-and-burro/herd-management/herd-management-areas/colorado .
Public access to facility / events	Why can't professionals have access to photograph and video herd round-ups? Wild Beauty who is making a movie and a professional film company in Sand Wash Basin and was not allowed to see the chutes or round-up pens. Why isn't the BLM transparent with the roundups?	Public viewing was made available for all of the Sand Wash Basin gather to include the temporary holding pens. The Piceance East Douglas Gather currently happening has had public viewing for 6+ days, but not a view of temporary holding since it is on private land.
CAWP	Does CAWP include infectious diseas protocols?	Yes.
holding facilities/breeding	You did not pass all the standards, BLM did pass with 83% but breeding in holding is not a pass.	The cumulative results gave the BLM a passing compliance report. Since then, a review has recommended staffing increases to prevent another outbreak.
On-Range Corrals/Holding Facilities; gathers	If you are close to capacity at Canyon City, why are you rounding up more?	Holding capacity is based on national holding availability.
grazing	You do a count on the number of horses out on the lands, but do you do a count of the cattle to make sure the ranchers aren't grazing more cattle then they're supposed to be?	Compliance inspections are conducted on grazing permits to ensure 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

grazing	You also did not answer this question: How was it determined that one horse AUM equals 1.5 cow calf pair, and when was that determination made?	That determination has been made by Universities completing research on how livestock and wildlife consume forage and their dietary needs. It has been studied for decades.
fertility control	Apologies if this has already been asked, are you going to or have you implemented a PZP birth control program at the facilities and on the range?	GonaCon fertility control in Piceance East Douglas HMA is being implemented on up to 300 mares that will be gathered and released back to the range. Fertility control is not given to horses in the facility.
supplemental feed/hay	Who supplies the hay to the prison horses?	The Department of Corrections handles the contract for hay suppliers.
breeding	Do you help with birthing care or would you try to find help with birthing care?	Birthing care is not provided on the range. Facilities use contracted veterinarians when horses need additional care due to complications birthing.
public access	Is Axtell open to the Public?	Yearly public viewing at Axtel is announced through blm.gov/whb website
Helicopter Gatherers	WHY CANT WE HAVE CAMERAS IN THE HELICOPTERS as recommended by YOUR VETS in 2010 and 2011.	Placement of cameras or other items of equipment during a gather operation is prohibited in the contract for drive trapping services.
Population Surveys / HMAs/ AML	Population estimates are only done every few YEARS ... and then the BLM uses a bogus 20% growth rate per year to spread the myth that WH populations are 'exploding'.... the BLM never shares this data for independent validation. Why?	Population analysis can be found at https://eplanning.blm.gov/eplanning-ui/project/2003177/570
Adoption/CAWP	Will you be doing more adoption events for the Sand Wash Basin horses besides the one in July in Fort Collins. why do you not hold more adoption events at Pathfinder park which less stress on the horses for hauling to adoptions events.	Additional adoption events will be scheduled for the Sand Wash Basin horses once the quarantine is lifted. Adotions at the same location lose effectiveness over time.
public land use/habitat	The data Elijah shared earlier clearly indicates what wildlife biologists and state agencies have known for decades - that feral horses outcompete native wildlife ungulate populations such as mule deer, elk and pronhorn. How can we address the destruction, degradation, and fragmentation of wildlife habitat from feral horses in order to stop them from being pushed into more marginal habitats further contributing to concerning population declines?	We can maintain the horse population to AML through gathers and fertility control. Following AML will ensure we have wild horses on the range, can support our multiple-use mission, and prevent degradation of the ecosystem. This is a complex issue but managing herds to the appropriate population size is an action that will help the range stay healthy long-term.
Canon City/holding facilities	What was the population density of wild horses held in the Canon corrals? Horses/area?	At full capacity of 2950 horse pens excluding alleyways, CAFO ponds, buildings and roads have 750 sq ft/horse.
CAWP	What actions, if any, are being taken to prevent the spread of disease or disease outbreak at the Axtell facility?	Axtell has a biosecurity plan to minimize disease potential.
Canon City horses	Does BLM anticipate that Colorado Wild Horses will, at some point, return to being managed at the Canon City facility?	BLM Colorado will continue to manage the contract with the State of Colorado Department of Corrections to include Colorado horses.

Canon City/CAWP	Can you pls respond to the report that there have been several horses at canon city that have come down with strangles pls	Reports on Canon City and any pathogens/disease found during the outbreak is outlined in Situation Reports - https://www.blm.gov/programs/wild-horse-and-burro/herd-management/herd-management-areas/colorado .
WHB Act	Can you speak to the language in the Act that speaks to:	The act can be found here - https://www.blm.gov/sites/blm.gov/files/programs_wildhorse_history_doc1.pdf .
Sale Barns /Sell horses for slaughter?	Do you have numbers of how many wild horses end up in the slaughter pipeline?	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. When the BLM is notified about a freeze-marked wild horse or burro being offered for sale, BLM officials identify the animal in the database to determine its disposition (adopted, titled, sold, transferred, or deceased). The agency investigates any possible violations of the Prohibited Acts and takes appropriate administrative or legal action. This could include returning the animal to BLM care, barring the adopter from participating in the adoption program in the future or referring the case to U.S. Attorneys for possible prosecution. If the animal is titled, BLM will provide a letter to the requestor confirming its status.
Canon City	What is the plan for the horses in Canon City?	Once the quarantine is lifted, horses will be made available through off-site, on-site, and on-line corral. Horses without an adoption market will be relocated to Long Term Pasture.
public lands use	Isn't Colorado a fence out state?	Colorado is a fence-out state.
Public access to facility / events	will the public and advocates be allowed to view the gather	Yes, when possible. Currently the Piceance East Douglas gather has had public viewing available every day, except on the temporary holding pen which is located on private property.
grazing/Livestock forage allocation	Cattle, livestock destroy their water source poop and pee in it where horses do not. Is this one of the reasons horses are leaving their areas?	Horses are leaving the HMA because there is limited to no forage.
Solicitation	In regard to your SOLICITATION offering due by June 22: The appropriations is 20 million for 1-5 year period. What are you actually soliciting for? and how can it be such a small % of the budget.	Solicitation information can be found at sam.gov .
grazing; Livestock numbers/Livestock population	Since the allocation for horses on Public Lands is only 2% and livestock is 86%, does that mean we have to go to Congress to get that changed to be more equitable?	Yes.
fertility control	How many mares being returned to the range are treated with Gonacon?	There will be up to 300 mares returned with Gonacon
Population Surveys / HMAs/ AML	Under 43CFR HMAPs shall be done by the manager. When can we expect HMAPs for the HMAs in CO?	Three of the four HMAs have HMAPs. The remaining HMAP will be completed as staffing levels allow.