

WILD HORSE PROPOSALS DEC 2005

Idea 1

1. Rather than the current Sand Wash Herd Management Area(HMA), we want to support Alternative C wording for Wild Horse Range Designation . HMAs' may also be designated as wild horse or burro ranges to be managed principally, but not necessarily exclusively, for wild horse or burro herds.
2. We must look into the future RMP of 20 years or so , and realize that there will be increases in all forms of use in Sand Wash, like O&G, OHV., tourists, etc.. We think most people support wild horses in Sand Wash at least as a integral part of the natural system of the public lands. As stated in the WFRHBA of 1971 "The Congress finds and declares that wild free-roaming horses and burros are living symbols of the historic and pioneer spirit of the American people; and that these horses and burros are fast disappearing from the American scene."
3. Oil and Gas already has stips in place for critical water areas within 1 mile, March 1 to the end of Sept. every year. Also there is a foaling stip for certain area(s?) March 1 to June 30th, and according to BLM rep. These stips will not change with WHR designation. This designation or other possible guidelines in RMP could effect OHV use off established trails and roads and in the identified critical areas.

Idea 2

1. In RMP Transportation and Recreation, page 106, Alt C does not mention "Wild Foaling Area would be closed to motor vehicle use from March 1 to June 30th." We suggest this be put in Alt. C.
2. See Idea 1, #2
3. See Idea 1, #3

Idea 3

1. Consider a higher Appropriate Management Level(AML) than the low end of 163, if the range and other data support this.
2. In RMP page AXX-1 of Appendix XX paragraph 2 it states "These additional needs include changing the AML for wild horses and management of the Yampa river, creating reserve common allotments." We need to find out what this means and do not support decreasing the AML.
3. We do not want to change the 2 grazing permittees access in any way, and as we understand it, they voluntarily remove sheep from the HMA if horse numbers are on the high end so the range benefits!