

Comments received on the October 14, 2005 version of the assumptions and criteria document from Barb Flores. Received on October 18, 2005.

Jeremy,

A question for tomorrow's meeting:

The first Q & A from yesterday's meeting, per email attachment from Kristi - Would not a benefit of increasing the wild horse herd in the Sand Wash HMA be increased percentage of grass usage, increasing vigor of grasses in the HMA?

This is because of the observed predominance of grasses with old seed heads, especially in the north central region of the HMA. Since grasses spread primarily through rhizomes and tillers, not seed, would it not be counter productive to allow these grasses to develop to the tall seed head stage and dry out rather than be grazed and produce new growth and also put needed effort into the rhizomes and tillers to become thicker and more durable? Would this increase grazing not produce better grass vigor?

As the grass usage is currently below 50%, a slight increase in the number of horses in the herd could be beneficial.

The sheep that currently use the area have a low preference for grasses, preferring to eat forbs. Would it not take a considerable increase in the number of sheep, to the point where forbs were being over utilized before they would have the desired impact on the grasses?

Would it be necessary to develop additional water source(s) in this area to encourage the horses to graze there?

Just thought you could probably give me some good information on this.

Thank you for your patience with an amateur.

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