

Field Manager
Billings Field Office
Bureau of Land Management
5001 Southgate Drive
Billings, MT 59101

**Comments on the Environmental Assessment, Pryor Mountain Wild Horse Range
Population Control, 2006. EA#BLM-MT-010-FY06-19**

Dear Field Manager;

Please do all you can to stop the madness in the Pryors Wild Horse Range before this unique, Spanish herd of wild horses is gone forever. Why would BLM continue to treat the herd with an infertility drug that has already been shown to be unpredictable and cause out-of-season foal births? And why would the Billings Field Office consider importing wild horses from Utah unless it had serious concerns that its removal of Pryor wild horses in 2006 (and possibly in 2008 and 2010) and its continued use of experimental drugs might seriously jeopardize the genetic health and viability of this herd?

The only reason given in the Environmental Assessment for running this risk with OUR wild horses is citing data collected in 2002-2003 during the height of the worst drought in nearly 100 years. They say the range is deteriorating, yet BLM stated last fall that there would be good winter forage for the Pryor wild horse herd, presumably because of good moisture.

Please do the right thing and opt for the No Action Alternative. Then focus on range expansion, range improvements, and predator studies with protection of mountain lions during the study period. The Pryor Wild Horse herd has proven that it can be a natural population in balance with the ecosystem if BLM would give nature a chance to make the decisions.

Sincerely,

Cc. Lynn Scarlett
Acting Secretary of the Interior
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Kathleen Clark
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