

## Austin/Tonopah AML Reduction Proposal Outline

1. Pg. 6 reports a population in Butler Basin of 89 horses in winter and 178-259 in summer.

However, no date is given as to when this census was taken.

This area was gathered twice, first in July of 2005 and then again in February 2006. According to BLM reported population of the Sevenmile HMA as of August, 2006, only 33 horses reside in the area.

FS AML proposal of 30-50 horses is considered part of BLM's 60-100 horses for the Sevenmile HMA. This means that AML has been set at maximum 100 horses for both the HMA and the WHT whose combined acreage is 151,174 acres. This equates to 1,511 acres per horse within this area. However, FS claims that only 4,400 acres are to be considered for horse use because this is the total amount of available winter habitat within the WHT. Yet, pg. 7, pg. 9, and pg. 11 all state that the horses do not reside in the WHT. Therefore, considering only 4,400 acres as habitable is illogical since they freely admit they don't reside there in the winter.

2. Pg. 5 states that "wild horses are able to graze up to 7,500 feet in elevation during the winter months....." The WHT range of elevation starts at 6,000 feet. This leaves only 1,500 feet of elevation that the FS used to determine winter grazing eligibility.

However, no mention is made as to summer elevation which is when and where horses reside within the WHT. No model was used calculating actual use during the actual season that horses are there.

3. Pg. 9 states: 8 wild horses (16 wild horses for six months) on 20,902 acres. Herd interacts with BLM No. Monitor HMA and combined AML is 16. However, BLM FY06 reports AML set at 8.

No. Monitor HMA acreage is 11,512/ Kelly Creek is 20,902 acres. Combined acreage is 32,414 acres. 8 horses equals 4,051 acres per horse.

4. Pg. 5 states: "In general, the FS WHT have limited suitable winter habitat while the BLM HMA's have limited suitable summer habitat".  
What limits the HMA's from having suitable summer habitat?

5. Pg. 5 states: Monitor WHT (No and So) has 339,428 acres total. Yet, no acreage is provided for each section. Why? What is the breakdown of acreage for Monitor North and Monitor South?

6. Pg. 4 states: "horses from No. Monitor interact with Little Fish Lake WHT and Little Fish Lake HMA".  
BLM reported in FY06 herd stats that ALL 87,545 HA were transferred. Who were they transferred to and why?

7. Pg. 10 states- "Setting the AML (No. Monitor) based on winter habitat will reduce the probability of over-stocking the Little Fish Lake HMA and Little Fish Lake WHT during the winter months."

What has that got to do with anything? Are they saying that the No. Monitor horses will move in the winter to these other areas when habitat is already available?

It then states the same thing about the Little Fish Lake WHT and HMA.

8. Pg. 10 states " Monitor North has generally suitable winter habitat to support 15-26 wild horses"

Yet the revised AML's proposals on pg. 7 only offer 11-20

and the original scoping document proposed 30-50. They don't have a clue!

9. Pg. 10 states: "Monitor South WHT has slightly less winter habitat than summer habitat. Since winter habitat is limited, the AML for this portion of the Monitor WHT was also set based on generally suitable winter habitat"

How can you say that winter habitat is limited when it is almost identical to summer habitat?

10. Pg. 11 shows a combined total of 99-139 total AML for Little Fish Lake WHT, Monitor-No. WHT and Little Fish Lake HMA. Yet, adding the individual AML's for these three herds equals 66-87.

11. Why is the Little Fish Lake HMA only 28,739 acres while the herd area is 116,284? What's going on with the other acreage?

12. Why is Butler Basin authorized for summer and winter grazing for cattle yet FS states that horses do not reside there in winter?

How many acres are authorized for livestock grazing in the winter here?

13. BLM reported in their Fiscal Year 2006 Herd Statistics that 87,545 acres were transferred from Little Fish Lake Herd Area. Who did they transfer them to and why?

Questions to submit to Austin/Tonopah Ranger District

1. BLM reported 87,545 acres transferred in Little Fish Lake HMA in FY06.

Currently unknown where acreage went. This is ALL acreage listed as the HA.

2. What is the total acreage (not just winter) of the No. Monitor WHT?

What is the total acreage (not just winter) of the So. Monitor WHT?

3. Please explain what makes BLM's HMA's have limited suitable habitat in the summer season.

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6. North Monitor Grazing Allotment for Butler Basin WHT Listed in BLM EA# NV063-EA06-092 but not in this proposal. Why?