

BLM says wild horses destroy public lands. BLM data tell a vastly different story.

On September 24, the Bureau of Land Management (BLM) announced a roundup of 4,300 wild horses to begin October 7 in five herd management areas (HMAs) in southwest Wyoming: Great Divide Basin, Adobe Town, Salt Wells Creek, White Mountain and Little Colorado.

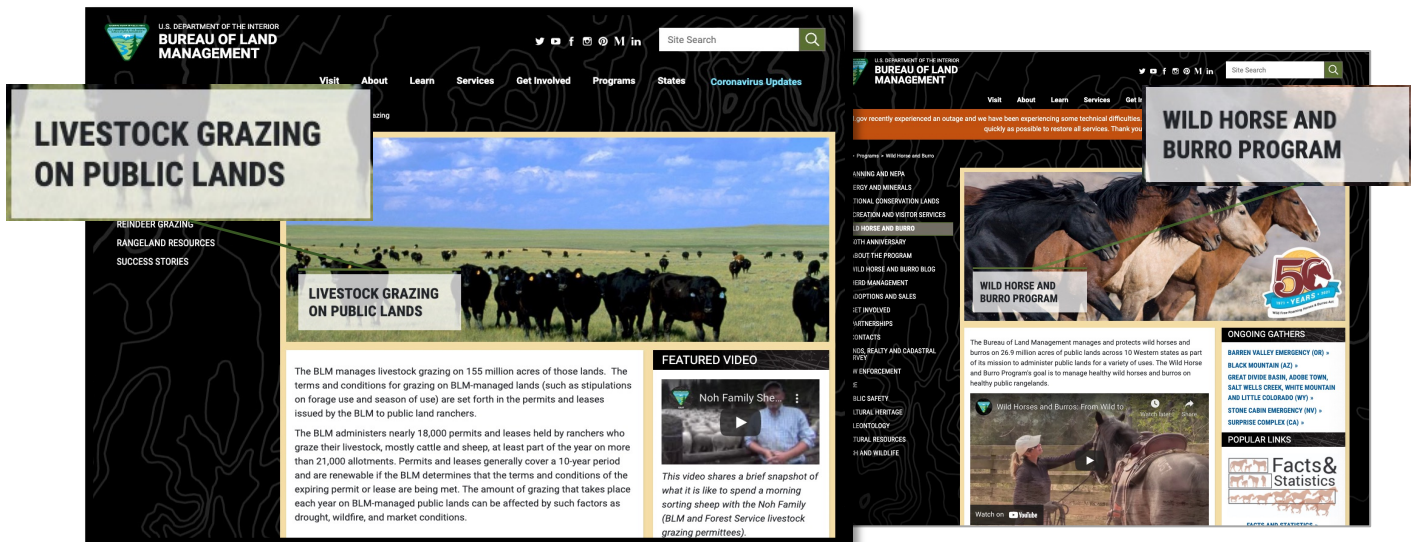
BLM's news release says this is necessary to provide water and forage for "other authorized users" in the HMAs; reduce *overpopulation* to achieve an *appropriate management level (AML)*; and prevent *rangeland deterioration*. Who are those "other authorized users"? Livestock operators.

BLM's database, records and reports show commercial livestock and not wild horses are the cause of rangeland damage (see p. 2) both *inside* HMAs (27 million acres of public land set aside by law for the principal use of wild horses) and *outside* (on another 128 million acres grazed only by livestock).

BLM's livestock grazing program and millions of cattle/sheep are why 70% of the five Wyoming HMAs' wild horses are being rounded up. U.S. taxpayers subsidize the roundups and private livestock operations at great cost and without their knowledge. But BLM won't tell you that side of the story.

BLM livestock grazing program is hidden from media, public

BLM news releases and spokespeople don't discuss livestock grazing on public lands and news outlets don't report on it. They don't know it exists even though [BLM's Livestock Grazing program](#) and its [Wild Horse and Burro program](#) occupy the same BLM website:



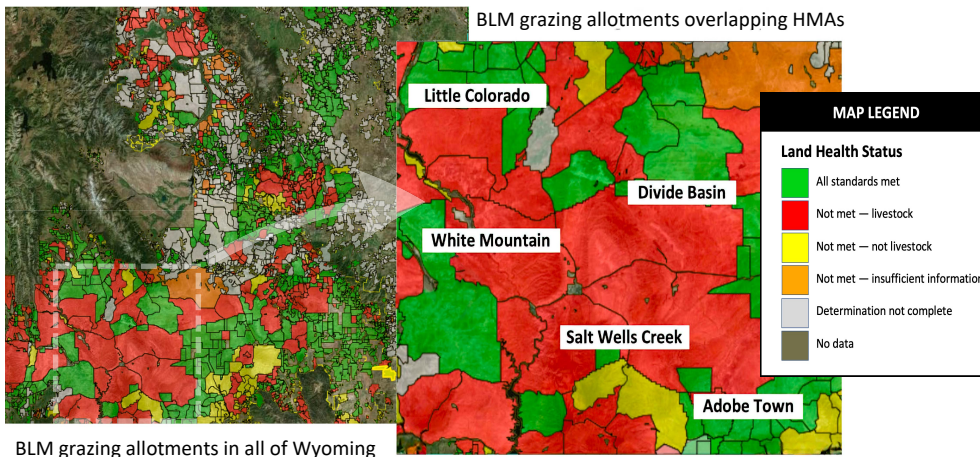
OR CLICK LINK TO VIEW BLM LIVESTOCK GRAZING PROGRAM ONLINE:
<https://www.blm.gov/programs/natural-resources/rangelands-and-grazing/livestock-grazing>



OR CLICK LINK TO VIEW BLM WILD HORSE AND BURRO PROGRAM ONLINE:
<https://www.blm.gov/whb>

BLM says HMA rangeland is “deteriorated.” BLM data show it’s livestock-caused.

[BLM rangeland health data](#) overlaid on satellite maps show widespread damage (in RED) by livestock across Wyoming and inside wild horse HMAs grazed by privately owned cattle/sheep. Recent Onaqui and Sand Wash roundups (in Utah and and Colorado) were also blamed on wild horse rangeland deterioration that BLM data show are cattle/sheep-caused.



OR CLICK LINK TO VIEW RANGELAND HEALTH MAPS:
<https://mangomap.com/peer/maps/24736/blm-rangeland-health-standards-evaluation-data-2012->

BLM says HMAs are “overpopulated.” BLM data show 7.4 x more livestock.

BLM data and planning documents for the roundup reflect livestock’s large footprint across Wyoming, especially in setting wild horse AMLs (appropriate management levels) that BLM cites in claims of overpopulation.

BLM allows 2,165 horses in the five HMAs in southwestern Wyoming, and allots them 25,980 AUMs per year vs. 191,791 AUMs a year allotted to privately owned livestock.

HMA	AML	AUMs to horses	AUMs to livestock	Forage to horses	Forage to livestock
Adobe Town	800	9,600	32,254	22.9%	77.1%
Great Divide Basin	600	7,200	35,914	16.7%	83.3%
Salt Wells Creek	365	4,380	59,556	6.9%	93.1%
White Mountain	300	3,600	19,063	15.9%	84.1%
Little Colorado	100	1,200	45,004	2.6%	97.4%
Total/Average	2,165	25,980	191,791	11.9%	88.1%

An AUM (animal unit month) is the amount of forage that a cow and her calf; a wild horse; or five sheep can consume in a month.

Livestock are allotted 7.4 times more forage than the wild horses on the 3,436,096 acres of public and private lands making up the five HMAs.

Forage allotted to livestock can support an additional 15,982 wild horses (32% of wild horses in off-range holding) for a maximum AML of 18,147 if livestock is removed. The pre-roundup population of 5,105 wild horses in the five HMAs is well within that range.

