

Thought I would make your day. DATA is on the owhyhee, sure a weird way of analyzing data. Note there is no possibility of mortality occurring.

Note - in using actual adult figures the change in data is 8% from 74 - 75. (DATA OR CENSUS MAY BE INACCURATE. PROBABLY IS INACCURATE.)

Comparison FOALS 74 to yearlings 75 indicates 14% mortality - God only knows if the classifications were correct - from the other shit in the file I would bet not. The files here are full of worse crap than this.

Note - Fences are not an effective barrier to horses. - The feeling here is they ~~eat~~ EAT the fence posts and tear down the wire.

Hoern was supposed to be a biologist? Best thing ever happened was when he went to BSFEW, I may not last long here but I AM going to kick and stall.

Ran.

Memorandum

DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
BUREAU OF LAND MANAGEMENT

IN REPLY REFER TO:

Multiple Choice Quiz

- DATA MAY be Inaccurate
- DATA Probably is Inaccurate
- DATA is certainly Inaccurate
- Horses Live Forever

To : Files

Date: June 20, 1975

FROM : Raymond R. Hoem, NRS

SUBJECT: Wild Horses, Owyhee Desert

During the period 9-11 June 1975, I conducted an aerial count of horses on the Owyhee Desert. The flights were on a grid, approximately 1 mile apart, flying east and west across the desert.

The following table represents the data gathered as compared to the 1974 inventory.

| Year | Adults | Juveniles | Yearling | Bands | Totals |
|------|--------|-----------|----------|-------|--------|
| 1975 | 954 | 232 | 212 | 134 | 1398 |
| 1974 | 875 | 247 | 231 | 124 | 1353 |

2460w/100A
200w/100A

The data collected was not what I had expected to find. I expected the data to show a large recruitment rate; i.e. number of adults surviving from yearling to adult age and number of colts surviving to yearling age. The data gathered indicates that only 79 animals (34.2%) survived to adulthood from yearling age. At the same time 212 animals (85.8%) survived from colts to yearling age. The latter figure is reasonably acceptable; however, those figures for adults place doubt upon the census.

Why?
Is anything less than 85% survival unacceptable?

There are three explanations which can explain the discrepancy noted above:

1. The census was inaccurate.
2. Animals migrated from the area.
3. Yearling animals were captured.

The census technique was essentially the same as the previous year's. However, two changes occurred:

1. The census was conducted by fixed wing aircraft.
2. Only one observer was conducting the census.

These two changes may have been enough to show the lower population levels.

Animals may have emigrated from the area. Surrounding areas were not checked due to the fact they are administered by other districts. There are no barriers, other than fences, which may have prevented emigration. Fences, normally, do not constitute an effective barrier to feral horses.

Yearling animals were captured. This is entirely possible due to the remoteness of the area. However, no capturing facilities were observed nor were any activities which appeared abnormal. A few additional band numbers were noted; however, these could have been created by the additional 79 horses.

From the past two years experience, foaling is not entirely completed at this time of year. Although it must be emphasized that these feral horses foal year around. However, I would suggest a one month delay in censuses of this type.

The data indicates, assuming a 50% male to female ratio, a reproduction rate of 48.6% or 49 foals per 100 adult females (adults being considered 2+year animals).

RH/mps

Raymond Steen