



Free Roaming Equids and Ecosystem Sustainability Network

Healthy Herds on Healthy Rangelands | USU

March 2, 2023

The U.S. Geological Survey and Bureau of Land Management have released PopEquus. See the joint news release links provided below and the attachment.

<https://www.blm.gov/press-release/new-tool-models-future-wild-horses-public-lands>

PopEquus provides realistic predictions that will help inform the use of various population-control methods to protect animal and land health from overpopulation. PopEquus was piloted at the 2022 Free-roaming Equid Summit, held October 12-14, 2022, in St. George, Utah.

PopEquus is open-source and uses peer-reviewed information to model expected outcomes for a given population of wild horses and the cost associated with that outcome. The model can project, for example, what the population size of a given wild horse herd will be after 10 years using a fertility-control vaccine to prevent pregnancy in a proportion of mares, as well as the expected cost. BLM managers can use this information to compare different possible management strategies. Visit [BLM.gov/WHB/science](https://www.blm.gov/WHB/science) for more information about PopEquus and the BLM's efforts to use science and technology to improve the management of wild horses and burros on public lands.

To access the PopEquus user interface, go to the USGS website: <https://rconnect.usgs.gov/popequus/>

The Free Roaming Equids and Ecosystem Sustainability network will host a free public webinar on April 5, 2023, to demonstrate PopEquus and answer questions about the model. The webinar will feature scientists from the USGS and BLM who helped develop the tool. To learn more about the webinar or to register to attend, visit [FREES Webinars | USU](#).

The Free Roaming Equids and Ecosystem Sustainability Network (FREES) is a group of diverse organizations working for a common goal of "healthy herds of free-roaming equids (wild horse and burros) on healthy rangelands." FREES seeks to enhance communication.

Best

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"If it's not good for communities, it's not good for wildlife."

UtahStateUniversity
Berryman Institute

Reducing wildlife damage and resolving human-wildlife conflicts through teaching, research, and extension

[Berryman Institute | USU](#)