



Breakout Session Topic Details

Rangeland Condition and Habitat Working Group

Our Tasks:

- Identify common misperceptions regarding federally defined Wild Horse and Burro habitat conditions
- Identify ecological and cultural “hot spots”

During the Breakout Sessions we will discuss:

1. Topic - Crossing ecological thresholds (hot spots) due to over use

Problem Statement - Identification and labeling of areas where ecological degradation has already occurred due to equid overuse is a relatively simple process. However, predictive models that will identify the probability of geospatial ecological degradation in HMAs and HAs have not been developed. Procedures are needed that will identify “hot spots” so that appropriate management techniques can be surgically applied specifically to those areas before ecological degradation takes place.

Expected Outcome from group discussion- Populate a team responsible for collecting germane information and drafting recommendations for the working group. This may include, identification of current and needed research, and funding sources necessary for development.

2. Topic -How to determine concurrent utilization percentages by foraging species.

Problem Statement – Forage utilization can be determined among multiple foraging species when the timing and duration of foraging for each species is separated in time and/or space. When foraging by two or more species is concurrent in time and space, it is almost impossible to segregate the relative portions of the forage base utilized by each species, given our current suite of measurement tools and approaches.

Expected Outcome from group discussion- Populate a team responsible for collecting germane information and drafting recommendations for the working group. This may include, identification of current and needed research, and funding sources necessary for development.

