

Meeting Minutes

Title:	Feral Horse Advisory Committee Meeting
Date / Time:	June 17, 2026 1:00 pm – 4:30 pm
Location:	Forestry and Parks, 8660 Bearspaw Dam Road NW, Calgary, AB
Chair:	Alexandra Miller-Tait, Executive Director Lands Delivery and Coordination South
Co-Chair:	Mike Alexander, Director Range Conservation and Stewardship
Participants:	Murray Gordon, RCMP Livestock Investigation Unit Shawn McLean, Livestock Identification Services Ltd. Mikki Shatosky, Horse Welfare Alliance of Canada Conrad Fennema, Alberta Wildlife Federation (Fish and Game Association) Terance Boss, Alberta Professional Outfitter Society Jack Nicol, Wild Horses of Alberta Society Barry Wesley, Stoney Nakoda Nation Daystar Smallboy, Stoney Nakoda Nation Buster Andrews, Rocky Mountain Forest Range Association Matt Denney, West Fraser Timber Alexandra Miller-Tait, Government of Alberta Mike Alexander, Government of Alberta Darrell Smith, Government of Alberta Natasha Rinas, Government of Alberta
Background Documents	

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| 1. Welcome, Land Acknowledgement, Opening Remarks, Introductions | 1:00 – 1:10 |
| 2. Approval of Agenda | 1:10 – 1:15 |
| 3. 2026 Horse Counts | 1:15 – 1:25 |
| 4. Update on 2025/2026 Framework Implementation | 1:25 – 1:55 |
| 5. First Nations Traditional Use and Knowledge | 1:55 – 2:25 |
| Break | 2:25 – 2:40 |
| 6. Committee Member Updates | 2:40 – 3:25 |
| 7. 2026 Feral Horse Management Implementation Plan | 3:35 – 4:15 |
| 8. Wrap Up and Next Steps | 4:15 – 4:30 |

Items

1. Welcome, Land Acknowledgement, Opening Remarks, Introductions	
General	- Meeting called to order at 1:00 p.m. - Government of Alberta (GoA), Alberta Forestry and Parks welcomed committee members. - Chair recognized Indigenous People with a Land Acknowledgement. - Participants introduced themselves and their organizations.

2. Approval of Agenda	
General	- The agenda was reviewed; no additions or changes were proposed. - The agenda was approved as presented.

3. 2026 Horse Counts	
General	- GoA presented an overview of the 2026 feral horse survey program, including survey maps and minimum-count results. - Survey data is publicly available through the Government of Alberta feral horse website. - Representatives from the Wild Horses of Alberta Society (WHOAS) and Horse Welfare Alliance of Canada participated in portions of the survey activities. - Survey results indicate that four of the six Equine Management Zones (EMZs) exceed the “red threshold” (the highest population management threshold) under the Feral Horse Management Framework. - Members discussed survey methodologies and compared Help Alberta Wildies Society (HAWS) and GoA survey results.
Action Items	

4. Update on 2025/2026 Framework Implementation	
General	- GoA provided an overview of implementation activities under the Feral Horse Management Framework for 2025 and 2026. - In 2025, three capture licences were issued for distressed or nuisance feral horses. The department also recognized that capture occurred outside the EMZ and outside of Forestry and Parks jurisdiction. - In 2026, three capture licences have been issued, as well as a licence to WHOAS to support the existing MOU. - An update on the proposed contraceptive program was provided. This program is currently pending approval from Health Canada. - An update was provided regarding University of Alberta research.
Action Items	GoA to share the University of Alberta preliminary study materials and presentation slides with committee members.

5. First Nations Traditional Use and Knowledge	
General	- Representatives from Stoney Nakoda Nation shared perspectives regarding the cultural significance of horses and their connection to the landscape. - Information was shared on cultural education opportunities, and committee members were invited to participate.

Action Items	GoA to engage with Stoney Nakoda representatives to explore cultural learning opportunities for the committee.
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6. Committee Member Updates	
General	- Committee members provided updates on activities related to feral horse management, including adoption, capture programs, and jurisdictional matters. - Concerns were raised about increasing abandonment of domestic horses in the Forest Reserve.
Action Items	- GoA to provide a fact sheet to the RCMP and LIS outlining legislative and jurisdictional considerations. - GoA to continue discussions with the Stoney Nakoda Nation regarding the cultural role and use of horses.

7. 2026 Feral Horse Management Implementation Plan	
General	- GoA reviewed management actions by zone classification. - Discussion focused on expanding capture options beyond distressed and nuisance licences, including partnerships, and First Nations involvement. - Committee members discussed management actions available under the Feral Horse Management Framework and recognized the need for increased implementation efforts in Equine Management Zones exceeding established framework thresholds, including consideration of increased capture activity in EMZs exceeding red thresholds. - Members discussed considerations affecting participation in capture programs. - Opportunities to utilize captured horses (e.g. as pack horses) were discussed, including potential pilot partnerships with outfitters, ranchers, farmers, and First Nations. - Members emphasized the importance of humane and safe capture practices. - The option of hunting horses was raised; no further discussion by committee members
Action Items	- GoA to provide an overview of the capture regulations and considerations. - GoA to continue implementation activities under the Framework

8. Wrap up and Next Steps	
General	- GoA thanked members for their participation and input. - The Alberta Wilderness Association (AWA) has withdrawn from the Committee due to their limited capacity. - A motion to remove the AWA from the ToR was approved. - Meeting adjourned at 4:28 p.m.
Action Items	Updated Terms of Reference will be provided to all Committee members.