

Proposed Sand Wash Population Management Action



Fall 2016

Objectives



- ❧ Apply PZP fertility control to a large percentage of mares within the Sand Wash Herd Management Area
- ❧ Conduct small, selective removal of young horses to be placed with the Great Escape Mustang Sanctuary (GEMS)



Porcine Zona Pellucida



- ❧ Known as PZP
- ❧ Blocks fertilization in mares
- ❧ Prevents pregnancy in 90% of treated mares
- ❧ Does not affect social behavior
- ❧ Mares should be (but don't have to be) darted twice in the first year, then annually thereafter

PZP



- ❧ BLM is partnered with the Sand Wash Advocacy Team (SWAT) to apply PZP to mares in Sand Wash via opportunistic darting. This began in 2014.
- ❧ SWAT has been able to dart about 18% of the mares yearly. For full effectiveness, 80% need to be darted.
- ❧ SWAT is increasing the number of trained volunteer darters and BLM is continuing to support with rifles, darts, PZP, and logistical support.

Selective Gather



- With SWAT's assistance, BLM is proposing to construct bait and water traps within the HMA. As bands of horses come into a trap, the gate would be closed and mares would be treated with PZP. Young horses (1-2 years of age) would be selected for removal and the rest released.
- Up to 50 horses would be selected for removal and held until ready for transport to Canon City. An on-site adoption may also occur for additional horses.

Selective Gather



- Personnel at Canon City would prepare the horses for adoption (freeze-marking and vaccinations) and transport the horses to the GEMS facility for training and adoption.
- Gather activities would continue until GEMS capacity is reached or weather forces activities to shut down.

Planning



- ❧ At this time, there are still many details to be worked out. Multiple planning meetings to decide gather logistics, priorities, and removal criteria are necessary.
- ❧ The LSFO is planning to hold public scoping meetings to help determine alternatives and receive feedback on the proposal.





Questions?