



An Introduction to the APHIS / BLM Wild Horse and Burro Partnership

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Today's Topics

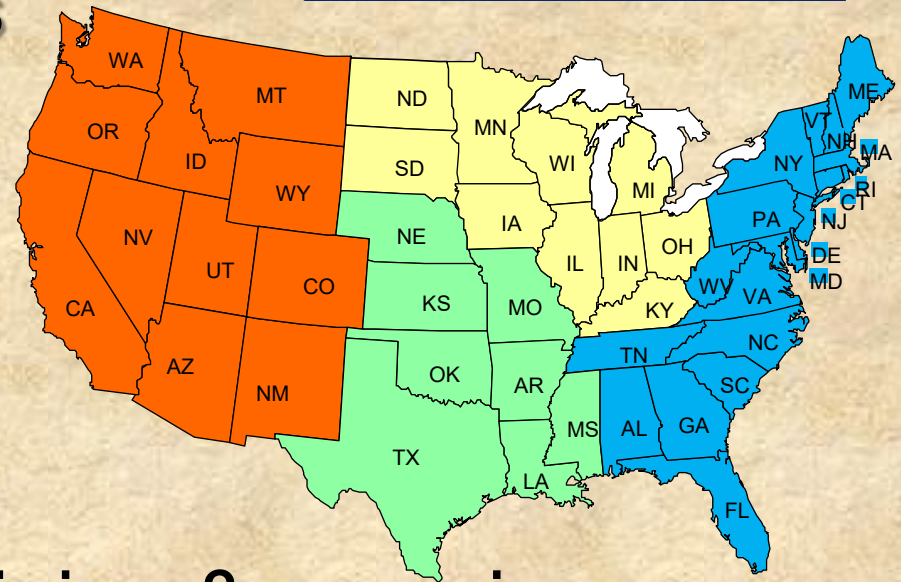
- Who is APHIS
- What is the APHIS/BLM WH&B Partnership
 - History of Partnership
 - Who, What, When and Where
 - examples of activities on-the-range, gathers, facilities, adoptions, post adoption compliance




- Animal & Plant Health Inspection Service (APHIS)

- **Veterinary Services**

- Surveillance & Preparedness
- Field Operations
- ~ 200 Veterinarians
- ~ 64 with WH&B training & experience



APHIS/BLM Wild Horse and Burro Partnership

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- 1996 brainchild of Dr. Katie Blunk and BLM's Joe Stratton
 - Drs. Goeldner, Cordes, Hatcher
 - since 1999, MOU
 - reimbursable agreement

APHIS / BLM Partnership

- MOU started in 1999
 - BLM utilize APHIS (primarily VS) for assistance & consultation re. health and handling of WH&B
 - initial emphasis on local support for field activity
- Inter Agency Agreement (reimbursable)
 - BLM pays for APHIS' work after it is done
 - salary, travel, per diems, supplies etc.
 - no year \$\$ stay at BLM after they are obligated
 - BLM billed quarterly *after* the work is performed

APHIS / BLM Partnership

- offers BLM
 - National network of unbiased veterinary expertise
 - field work
 - National Program activity
- offers APHIS
 - “one health” opportunity to be more active in horse industry
- offers animals
 - enhanced care and handling



Components of the Program

- Range
- Gathers
- Facilities
 - on and off range
- Adoptions & Sales
 - compliance, titling
- policy, research



APHIS / BLM Partnership

2 Parts:

1) Headquarters Activities

- a) Policy and Procedures
- b) Facilities
- c) Research, CAWP

2) Field Work

- a) Gathers
- b) Facilities
- c) WH&B Specialists in field



Examples of the APHIS Partnership

- animal health, care and handling
 - policy
 - communications
- Research Team
- CAWP Audits
- gather support
- compliance work
- regulatory guidance
 - regulatory support



APHIS on the Range

- APHIS attends all helicopter gathers
- respond to concerns re. disease situations
 - health and welfare at herd and individual level
- help triage gather emergencies
- assist with research projects and fertility control



APHIS at Gathers

- 1° observe and document animal care / handling
- consultation on emergency care and euthanasia
- facilitate compliance with animal health regs
- consult on emergency first aid
 - triage for private practitioners
- assist with:
 - CAWP compliance / audits
 - research sampling
 - fertility control application



APHIS at Work with BLM in FY2024

- 33 veterinarians spent **55 weeks on 22 gathers** in 8 states
 - another 64 weeks of gathers were planned or scheduled but either ended early (16 gathers) or were cancelled (5 gathers)
- **6 weeks spent on CAWP work** with BLM Team
 - Included 5 by AJK and one by an APHIS Field VMO
- 14 veterinarians did **35 ORP inspections** in 11 states with BLM Project Inspectors
- delivered 4 training sessions for BLM Specialists

APHIS in Facilities

Health and Welfare

- assist with problem investigation
- second opinion, consultations
 - mortality, infectious dz
 - TPEC review
- assist with ORP visits
- facility design
 - inspection of new facilities



APHIS at Adoptions

- educational programs
 - for BLM, adopters, public



USDA
Veterinary Services
USDA & BLM
A Partnership for Healthy Wild Horses and Burros

USDA
Veterinary Services
Program Management for Healthy Wild Horses and Burros
Albert J. Kane, DVM, MPVM, PhD
Veterinary Epidemiologist and Advisor
Lisa Hatcher, DVM, MPHE, MOM
National Coordinator
USDA:APHIS / USDI:BLM Partnership


USDA
Veterinary Services
Making Humane Care Decisions for Wild Horses and Burros

USDA
Veterinary Services
Healthy Wild Horses and Burros

USDA
Veterinary Services
Rabies and West Nile Virus in Horses and Burros
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Feeding Horses 101
(Equine Nutrition by a Non-nutritionist)
Albert J. Kane, DVM, MPVM, PhD
(the non nutritionist)

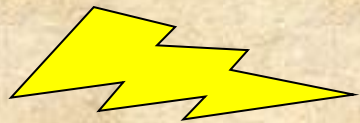
Partnerships for Healthy Wild Horses and Burros
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WNV & Vesicular Stomatitis Updates
• scabs & exudate nose, lips

BLM WH&B
Facility Managers call 6/1/04

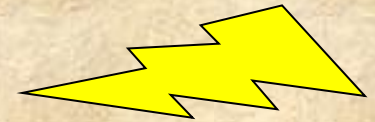
APHIS and Compliance

- adoptive homes checked by APHIS
 - where BLM has limited resources
- title inspections
- complaint investigations
 - education
 - rapid response





Changes Over Time



- **APHIS responds to changes in the WH&B Program's needs as requested**
- initial focus was on field activities
- early 2000s emphasis on research and HQ support
 - National WH&B Research Team, Research Strategy, Field Trial Plan
- 2010 increased APHIS support of gather activities
 - outside expert panel reviews, CAWP, veterinarian for every gather
- 2014 more animal health consultations at facilities
- today more emphasis on welfare and BLM's social license to operate

Today and Into the Future

- **currently 3½ years into 5-year Agreement**
 - annual spending ranges from about \$300K to \$750K depending on workload
 - BLM has requested we **renew** the agreement early (**before July 2025**) due to a change in management software
- in the future APHIS will continue to assist the Program as requested and whenever possible

Questions ?

