



U.S. Department of the Interior
Bureau of Land Management

Wild Horse and Burro Program

The Bureau of Land Management

On-Range and Corral Operations Branch Update Advisory Board Meeting – Elko, Nevada September 9, 2016

Jared Bybee, Acting Branch Chief
On-Range and Corral Operations



U.S. Department of the Interior
Bureau of Land Management



On-Range and Corral Operations Branch

- FY16 Population Estimates
- Gather, Removals and Fertility Control
- Escalating Problems
- Sage Grouse
- Litigation
- Freedom of Information Act
- Research Update/Inventory (Paul Griffin)
- Partnership Tool Kit (Jason Lutterman)





Wild Horse and Burro On-Range Statistics

Population estimate for wild horse
and burros as of March 1, 2016:

67,000

Appropriate management level for
177 herd management areas:

26,715

Number of animals removed from the
range thus far in FY16:

2,500

Projected number of treatments with
contraception vaccines in FY16:

715





Wild Horse and Burro FY16 & 17 Gathers and Removals

In order to remain fiscally solvent removal numbers are based upon the number of animals that leave the BLM holding system through adoptions, sales, and natural mortality

This translates to approximately 3,500 animals per year

Gather Priorities:

- Public Health and Safety (animals on the highway, etc.)
- Private Property Conflicts
- Court Orders
- Animal Health
- Greater Sage-Grouse Sagebrush Focal Areas (SFA)
- Research
- Contraceptive Retreatments
- Selective Removal of Adoptable Animals





Remaining FY16 Gather Schedule

State	HMA	Start Date	Gather	Remove	Fertility Control	Purpose
OR	Three Fingers	8/29/16	150	150		Wildfire/Emergency
NV	Wood Hills	8/29/16	60	60		Escalating Problem animal health
NV	Stone Cabin	9/1/16	325	100	125	Selective removal
CA	Devils Garden	9/8/16	250	200		Private Property
NV	Reveille	9/12/16	125	50	30	Court Order
OR	Cold Springs	9/15/16	150	100	50	Selective Removal
AZ	Various	ongoing	250	250		Public Safety
AZ	Lake Pleasant	TBD	70	70		Research/Public Safety
CO	Sand Wash	10/1/16	350	100	200	Fertility Retreatment





Tentative FY17 Gather Schedule

State	HMA	Start Date	Gather	Remove	Fertility Control	Purpose
CO	Sand Wash	10/1/16	350	100	200	Fertility Retreatment/Darting
WY	Divide Basin, Adobe Town, Salt wells	10/15/16	1338	893		Consent Decree/SFA
NV	Owyhee, Rock Creek, Little Owyhee	11/1/16	1480	1100	300	SFA
WY	Little Colorado/ White MT	11/1/16	567	212		Research
UT	Bible Springs	11/29/16	100	50	25	Court Order/State Lands
UT	Frisco	1/9/17	100	100		Return for Research
UT	Cedar Mt	2/1/17	700	200	200	Retreatment
UT	Muddy Creek	8/1/17	50	50		Court Order/State Lands
	Various				227	Field Darting





Contraception

FY16

399 Zonastat-H

304 PZP-22

12 Gonacon

FY17

Projecting approx. 800
applications



Photo Jerad Werning





Escalating Problems





Escalating problems are conditions that deteriorate over time.

These are situations which result in negative impacts to animal condition and rangeland health.





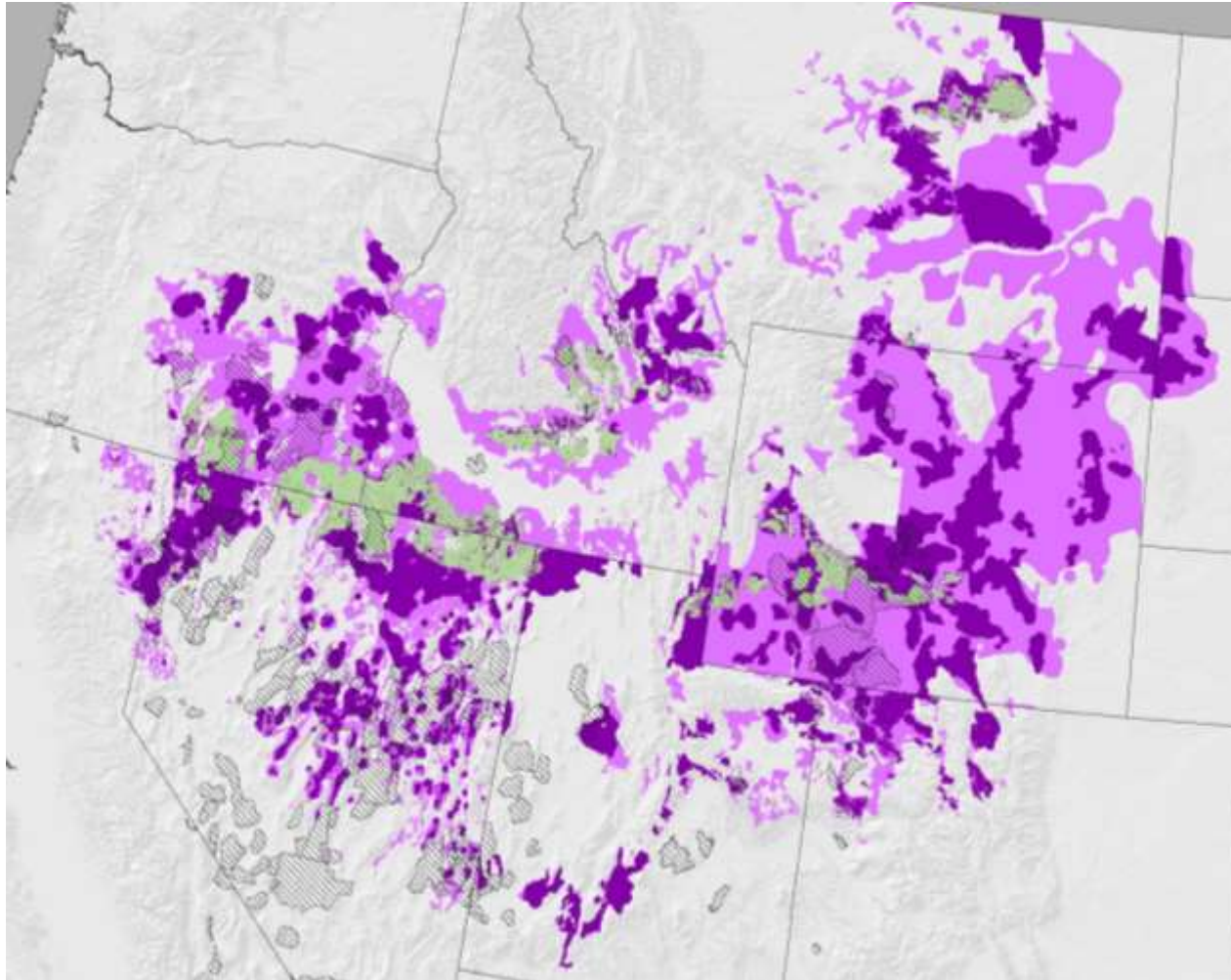
Escalating Problems

BLM is currently monitoring 72 escalating problems in Oregon, California, Nevada, Arizona, Utah, Colorado, Idaho, and Montana









Greater Sage-Grouse Habitat



A landscape-scale recovery effort for the Greater Sage-Grouse is underway.

105 HMAs are within Sagebrush Focal Areas, Priority Habitat Management Areas and General Habitat Management Areas

-  Sagebrush Focal Areas
-  General Habitat Management Area
-  Priority Habitat Management Area
-  Herd Management Area





Greater Sage-Grouse Habitat

105 HMA with 15 M acres

Greater Sage Grouse and Wild Horses and Burros

Type	# HMAs	Acres of Habitat	Estimated WHB population	Removals to reach High AML
SFA	22	2 million	7,265	3,056
PHMA	65	6.5 million	26,5588	14,615
GHMA	18	6.5 million	5,464	2,946
TOTAL	102	15 million	39,285	20,617





Greater Sage-Grouse Habitat

Current and Projected Wild Horse Populations by Habitat Classification
Population and Projected Growth (17.5% growth) and SFA Removals

Category	# HMAs	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020
HMA w/SFA	22	7,265	6817	5801	4943	4207
HMA w/PHMA	65	26,558	31,206	36,666	43,082	50,621
HMA w/GHMA only	18	5,464	6,420	7,543	8,863	10,414
TOTAL	105	39,285	44,443	50,010	56,888	65,242





Gathers in Greater Sage Brush Focal

Tentative 5-year Gather Plan

Category	States	HMA's	SFA/PHMA Acres	Planned Removed
FY16	OR	Beaty Butte	617,000 SFA	1,074
FY17	WY, NV	Divide Basin, Salt Wells, Adobe Town, Little Colorado, White Mt. Owyhee, Little Owyhee, Rock Creek	392,000 SFA 974,000 PHMA	2,454
FY18	WY	Red Desert Complex	890,000 SFA	2,450
FY19	NV	Owyhee Complex	292,000 SFA 155,000 PHMA	800
FY20	WY, CA, ID	Lander Complex, Nut Mountain, Bitner, Massacre Lake, Challis	491,000 SFA	1,750
TOTAL	5 States	24 HMA's	2,390,000 SFA 974,000 PHMA	8,528

BLM could reach AML in SFA by 2020, no Gathers would occur in HMA's that have only Priority or General Habitat until 2021





Litigation

- 1 case -- Use of prescribed fire in a herd management area
- 1 case -- Non-reproducing herd segments to control population growth
- 3 cases -- Proposed research
- 3 cases -- Use of Contraception Vaccine
- 4 cases -- Failure to remove excess wild horses or burros
- 9 cases -- Violations of Wild Free Roaming Horses and Burros Act, the National Environmental Policy Act, Administrative Procedures Act





Freedom of Information Act

21 Current FOIA Requests

- 4 Requests - Pastures
- 4 Requests - Research
- 3 requests - Financial Accounting
- 2 Requests - Sales
- 2 Requests - Inventory
- 1 Request - Filming
- 1 Request - WHBPS database
- 1 Request- E-mail
- 1 Request - Gather Information
- 1 Request - Shipping Records
- 1 Request-Death Records





Questions?



Photo: Bruce Thompson

