

WH&B Program Funding

Historically, Idaho receives about \$250,000 funding for approximately 20WM's, \$15,000.00 in operational costs and 0777. These funds will be planned for herd management across the State and management of the WH&B Information System. Typically, the labor and operations will be spread as follows following the division of herd areas:

1. State Coordinator 2 WM (Vice Miles)
2. District Herd Management 13 WMs (7 BDO, 3 IFDO, 3 TFDO)
3. Administration 1 WM (Hoffman)
4. Compliance and Titling 1 WM each District (Boise, Coeur d'Alene, Idaho Falls, Twin Falls)
5. \$15,000 Vehicle Operational Costs (\$8,000 BDO, \$3,500 IFDO, \$3,500 TFDO)

To ensure the State manages their 1060 program for base work, all labor and operational costs for gathers, adoptions and events will be covered by the event budget.

Unfunded needs in the State include the following existing equipment assets that are important to maintain the National and State capabilities.

Equipment Availability and Location:

Ford F550 Truck & Trailer with 85 Panels & 4 gates (Burley)
Fly Chute for preparation, vaccinating, and branding (Boise)
Loading Chute(Challis)
Loading Chute (Burley)
20' Horse Trailer (Jarbidge)
20' Horse Trailer (Burley)
24' Horse Trailer (Boise)

Yearly Maintenance:

Ford F550 \$1.26/mi (5,000 miles)	=\$6,300.00
Panel Trailer \$1000.00	=\$1,000.00
Chutes \$100.00 each	=\$ 300.00
Horse Trailers \$500.00 each	=\$1,500.00
Total	=\$9,100.00

WH&B Team Background

In FY 1999, the Idaho Corporate Team (ICT) established the WH&B “Core Team” to share and benefit from the specialized expertise of professional staff located in various offices across the state. The ICT concept assigned functional leads to serve as technical experts for various aspects of Idaho’s WH&B program and events. Additionally, the intent of the ICT concept is to ensure safe and efficient implementation of WH&B activities, particularly gathers and adoptions.

The ICT’s decision was due, in part, to a National initiative to achieve appropriate WH&B numbers across the public land by 2005. In addition to Idaho horses gathered and offered for adoption, the initiative required that horses and burros gathered from other states would be offered at “satellite” adoptions within Idaho. To facilitate those activities, as well as the continuing responsibilities associated with managing the six wild horse herds in Idaho, the WH&B ICT was created.

In 2003, after four years of operation as the ICT, needed refinements or changes in the original structure and/or function of the Team were identified. While most of the original strategy has proven effective, it had become apparent that the Team’s responsibilities might best be divided into two major categories: 1) management of Idaho’s herds, including gathers necessary to maintain appropriate management levels and 2) management of adoption events, both local and satellite. The need for Team members accustomed to working together in handling the horses at adoptions was identified as an important safety issue.

On February 28, 2003, a WH&B ICT meeting was held at the State Office. Following discussions regarding the roles and responsibilities of the ICT Members, it was decided to revise the original draft “Idaho’s Wild Horse and Burro Core Team,” dated March 14, 2002, and develop an updated draft, “Idaho’s Wild Horse and Burro Team Roles and Responsibilities.” Since most ICT and support team members are involved in both aspects of the WH&B Program, the word “core” was eliminated from the title of the Team. Law Enforcement was added to the list of functional leads since these events require an increasing level of security considerations. In addition, another horse wrangler was added so that there is a backup.

The team would be called “Idaho’s Wild Horse and Burro Team.” However, to minimize unnecessary impact to other workloads for which each Team member is responsible, some separation was made. In short, the “Adoption Team” consisted of the functional leads (i.e., adoptions, gathers, herd management, public affairs, state lead, administration, and law enforcement), an additional administrative person, and three horse handlers. In other words, the entire team is normally involved with adoptions. The “Management Team” consisted of the functional leads mentioned above and a representative for each Idaho herd. Functional leads would be called upon to address issues that are best handled with a small group and do not require the presence of the whole team. It was felt that it was prudent logistically and financially to limit problem solving to those functional leads that are needed to properly address the issue, such as implementation of new Washington Office direction regarding gathers.

On April 29, 2003, a briefing for the State Director on the WH&B Program and the “New” WH&B Team was held at the State Office. Following the briefing, approval was given to finalize Idaho’s WH&B Team.

Two meetings were held that further refined the WH&B Team and Idaho’s wild horse program. One meeting was held in Twin Falls on January 6, 2006, and the other was held in Challis on November 28, 2006. As a result of those meetings, vacancies on the WH&B Team have been filled, shadowing assignments have been approved (not to the level required) so that the team has the personnel available to cover sickness, illness, separations and retirements of key individuals on the team and in the program, and a new four year gather cycle was established.

Since the meetings in 2006, the National Wild Horse Program has entered into a major challenge regarding the availability of funding to carry out the mission. Short and long term holding costs have escalated to over 70 percent of the National WH&B budget. Therefore, the funding available to gather/adopt wild horses are not adequate to keep up with maintaining Appropriate Management levels (AML) in our Herd Management Areas (HMAs). Priority for gathering is limited to emergency type gathers or innovated type gathering where excess horses are not placed into the short or long-term facilities. It is not realistic at this time to develop a four year gather cycle for Idaho’s HMAs until the National holding issue is solved and our operating budgets are able to help us continue to move towards AML for all HMAs.