



WILD HORSE AND BURRO PROGRAM

Highlights from Fiscal Year 2021

The Bureau of Land Management celebrated 50 years of managing and protecting herds under the Wild Free-Roaming Horses and Burros Act in fiscal year (FY) 2021. The BLM's Wild Horse and Burro Program hit several major milestones and set records on its path toward achieving sustainable populations of wild horses and burros on healthy public rangelands. Annual adoption and sale totals soared to new heights under the Adoption Incentive Program, reaching levels not seen in more than 20 years. At the same time, field offices continued to ramp up gathers and fertility control efforts as population estimates indicated some progress toward appropriate management levels. The need to reduce overpopulation remains imperative as the West continues to experience harsh drought conditions.

ADOPTIONS AND SALES

Incentives for adopting untrained animals and a spike in the number of animals trained through partner programs helped the BLM place more than 8,600 wild horses and burros into good homes in FY 2021.

Wild Horses and Burros Adopted and Sold Since 1997

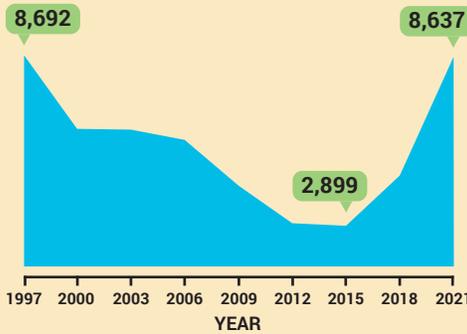
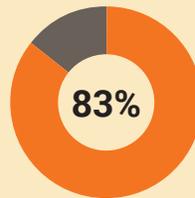


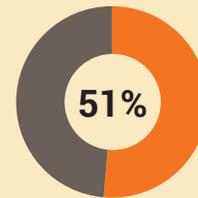
photo by Ann Bond

Total placements reached the highest level since 1997

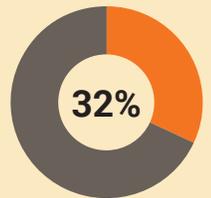
OTHER ADOPTION STATS



Adoption continues to be the primary way wild horses and burros are placed into private care. Of the animals that were placed into private care through adoptions and sales, 83% (5,698 animals) were adopted.



Animals adopted through the Adoption Incentive Program accounted for more than half of all adoptions (3,742 animals).



Almost a third of all animals adopted were trained or gentled (2,729 animals).



3,465

Adoptions and sales facilitated through BLM's national partner, the Mustang Heritage Foundation, setting a new annual record



OFFSITE EVENTS

In addition to being available for adoption at dozens of BLM facilities across the West, the BLM takes thousands of animals every year to offsite events (mostly east of the Mississippi River) to provide more people the opportunity to bring home a wild horse or burro.

7,129

Wild horses and burros offered for adoption or sale at offsite events

67

Offsite adoption and sale events hosted by the BLM

27

Facilities held adoption and sale events



COMPLIANCE AND TITLING

The BLM conducts mandatory compliance inspections of adopted, untitled animals living in private care. The BLM continues to increase its use of digital tools to complete compliance inspections.



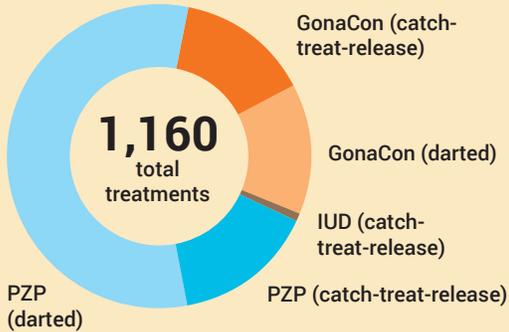
The BLM requires all title applications to be signed by a veterinarian or other authorized officer to ensure the animal is in good health before ownership is transferred from the BLM to the adopter.



FERTILITY CONTROL

More animals were treated with fertility control this year than ever before as the BLM focuses on finding ways to slow population growth and reduce the need for removing animals from public lands.

Wild Horse Fertility Control Treatments by Type

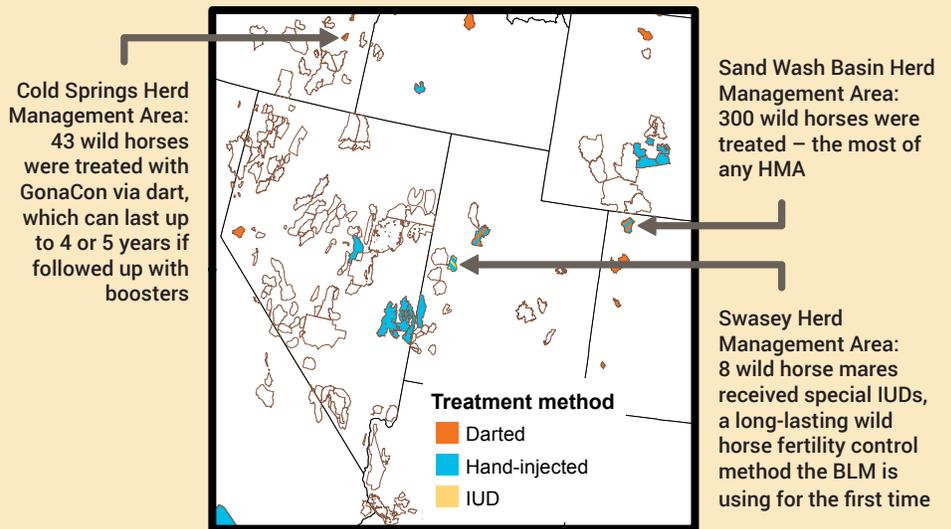


The BLM primarily uses porcine zona pellucida, or PZP, for fertility control but is increasing its use of the GonaCon vaccine, which has the potential to last more than twice as long as PZP if followed up with boosters.

The mention of company names, trade names, or commercial products does not constitute endorsement or recommendation for use by the Federal Government.



Fertility Control Treatment in Wild Horse and Burro Herd Management Areas



Some fertility control treatments can be delivered via dart to more approachable animals but other animals must be caught, treated, and then released. The BLM continues to support research to develop better, longer-lasting fertility control methods that require fewer treatments and can be effective in more herds.

GATHERS AND REMOVALS

To help reduce overpopulation and prevent starvation, thirst, and habitat degradation, the BLM gathered more animals in FY 2021 than in any year since 1985. More than 7,000 of these wild horses and burros were facing emergency conditions and imminent threats to their health and well-being due to severe drought and public safety concerns.

Wild horse and burro gathers

Total gathered	14,276
Total removed	13,666
7,007	Total removed due to emergency
1,160	Total treated



PASTURES AND CORRALS

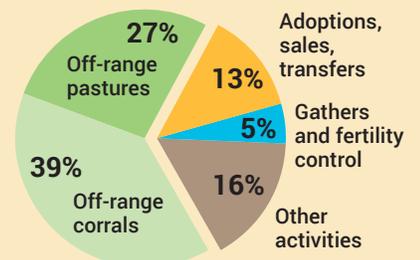
The BLM expanded its capacity to provide care for animals gathered from public lands. Off-range pastures provide large, free-roaming environments for long-term care of unadopted animals. Off-range corrals receive animals gathered from public lands, prepare them for domestic life, and make them available for adoption.



Off-range pastures		Off-range corrals	
Spaces added:	Total capacity:	Spaces added:	Total capacity:
5,000	43,888 animals	8,500	28,245 animals

BUDGET

Total FY 2021 Wild Horse and Burro Program Expenditures: **\$112.2 million**



U.S. Department of the Interior
Bureau of Land Management
Wild Horse and Burro Program

For more information, visit blm.gov/whb, call (866) 468-7826, or email wildhorse@blm.gov.