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
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.
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.
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?