Oregon’s Wild Horse & Burro Program

National Wild Horse & Burro Advisory Board
April 13, 2016

Rob Sharp
WH & B Specialist
Burns District

Bob Hopper
WH & B Program Lead
Oregon State Office
Oregon’s Herds

Herd Management Areas (HMA)

• 17 HMAs managed by BLM (~2.7 million acres BLM)
• 1 Wild Horse Territory co-managed by BLM (32%) & USFS (68%)-Murderers Creek
• 1 Wild Horse Territory managed solely by USFS-Big Summit
• 19 Wild Herds total
• Combined AML: 1,440-2,855 (~10% national population-based on AML)
• 2016 adult population of 4,136 horses and burros
Oregon Herd Management Areas
Oregon’s Horses

- Oregon set and reached AML in the 1980’s
- This allowed us to select the best horses to be turned back on the range to produce the next generation of horses for our adopters.
- Selective Returns—Temperament, Size, Color & Conformation
- Highly desired by adopters
- Great public support!
Oregon’s Wild Horse Corral Facility

- Off-Range Corral for Oregon Gathers
- Care for ~650 animals per year
Adoption Program

- Average 200 animals/year
- Successful Partnerships with Teens & Oregon Mustangs and Mustang Yearlings & Washington Youth
- Gentled Horse Events/Internet Adoptions
- Volunteers, Volunteers, Volunteers!!!
Why Manage?
Why Manage?
“The Good”
Why Manage?

“The Bad”
Why Manage?
“The Ugly”
Why Manage Populations?

The Good

Summer 2011

The Bad

The Ugly

Summer 2014
September 21, 2015, Oregon Greater Sage-Grouse Approved Resource Management Plan Amendment was signed.

Objectives

- Preserve and maintain a Thriving Natural Ecological Balance in a multiple use relationship
- Manage population levels within established AML
- Complete assessment of greater sage-grouse habitat indicators (HAF) for HMA’s containing SFA, PHMA outside of SFA, GHMA and non-habitat (priority order)
- Management Decisions
  - Highest priority for gathers and population suppression, AML adjustment, and monitoring is in HMA’s within SFA’s, PHMA outside of SFA and GHMA (priority order)
  - Continue to coordinate with professionals to utilize and evaluate new management tools (population growth suppression and inventory techniques)
Just a cool picture...
New and Different Spay Research

- Agreement with OSU to study 3 separate methods of mare sterilization
- Pen trial research to test safety and efficacy
- 100 mares ovariectomy
- 50 mares tubal ligation
- 50 mares laser ablation
Ovariectomy via Colpotomy

From Kobluk et al., 1995
Minimally Invasive Methods

Laser Ablation

The flexible endoscope would be placed into the vaginal vault and advanced through the cervix. The uterus would be partially inflated with filtered room air to visualize the oviduct papilla located at the proximal end of the uterine horn.

Tubal Ligation

Site for insertion of the insufflation needle to the abdomen through the anterior vaginal wall. The flexible endoscope would also enter the abdomen through this hole or a small incision to allow visualization of each oviduct.

The flexible endoscope would be inserted toward the oviducts for the application of local anesthesia and for the cautery instrument/diode laser to effectively fulgurate or cut the oviduct tissue.
New and Different
“The Beaty Butte Effort”

- Over 1,200 horses on the range summer 2015 (AML of 100-250)
- Community Action – nearly 2 years of discussions
- November 2015-gathered nearly 1,100 horses
- Solicited Assistance Opportunity to assist with gathers, fertility control, training, and marketing/adoption

- Goal is to utilize local community assistance to maintain an appropriate horse population and reduce or eliminate excess animals going into perm. off-range holding