Why Does BLM Support WH&B Research?

- BLM needs tools for on-range management
  - 67 thousand adults on-range, in March 2016
  - Contraception, spay & neuter methods
  - Public safety & roads

- Improved understanding of WH&B ecology
  - Demography
  - Movements
  - Genetics
  - Behavior

- Improved population monitoring methods
2014 RFA University-led Contraception / Spay Projects

- Oregon State U., Spay research (1,2,3):
  - Pending litigation

- U. Kentucky, tubo-ovarian ligation (4):
  - Assessing preliminary results

- Colorado State U., GonaCon boosting (5):
  - 4-year boosted mares had low foaling rates
  - 2-year and 6-month boosted mares could show effects in 2017
Colorado State U., New vaccine (6):
• Testing proteins that may cause oocyte depletion

Ohio State U., New PZP delivery (7):
• Testing silicone oil with PZP, and capsule materials
• Testing in rabbits to begin soon

Louisiana State U., New proteins to suppress GnRH production (8):
• Proteins are being tested in vitro
• August flood impacts possible
USGS-led Projects

- Radio Collar trials (9):
  - Preparing publication, presenting talk at Wildlife Society conference in October

- Wild horse spay study (10):
  - EA for Wyoming in preparation

- Wild horse gelding study (11):
  - Radio collaring in Conger HMA August 22-26

- Wild horse demography study (12, 13):
  - Radio collaring Frisco HMA horses this winter
  - EA for Wyoming in preparation
USGS-led Projects, cont.

- **Burro demography study (14):**
  - 30 radio collars deployed on jennies at Sinbad HMA in April; No observed impacts
  - Weekly field observations through September
    - Monthly checks in winter
    - Post mortem on pneumonia deaths, May-July

- **Burro aerial survey techniques (15):**
  - 2 infrared surveys and 2 double observer surveys
  - Data analyses in winter 2016-17
USGS-led Projects, cont.

✓ Fecal DNA study (16):
  • Preparing publication, presenting DNA aging results at Wildlife Society conference in October
  • Awaiting microhistology results for diet analyses

☒ Carrying capacity model (17):
  • Statistical model developed and tested at CSU
  • Final report in prep this fall/winter

☒ WinEquus II population modeling software (18):
  • Development starting in October
WH&B Inventories Update: Aerial Surveys

✓ Surveys with new methods allow for statistical estimation of animals not seen

✓ 53 HMAs surveyed in 2016, as of August 18
  • 13 more before September 30
Questions & Comments from the Advisory Board