



POREST SERVICE

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### Basics of Wild Free Roaming Horses and Burros Act

Horses are Wild (noun) only if recognized on specific designated areas prior to December 15, 1971







Current Numbers on all 53 Wild Horse and Burro Territories

Horses on all Territories: 9000

Burros on all Territories: 1100

Joint Management Areas: 12 with FS taking the lead 2 50/50 BLM and FS 10 with BLM taking lead

AML for all Territories: Horses: 2100 Burros: 300





#### **Population Mitigation by Natural Means**

On Range Controls

- Predators:
  - $\checkmark$  Mountain lions
- Nature
  - ✓ Winter
  - ✓ Drought







#### Horses in Off Range Facilities

- 1. Horses in FS Corrals: 115 (down from 600)
- 2. Horses in BLM Facilities 1490
- 3. Long-Term Holding

  1134 total horses
  Age Range 4 yr-28 yr







#### Money requirements for the FS WHB Program

#### Funding:

Operations and Maintenance are funded through the Regional Forester and Forest Supervisor

1500 FS horses in BLM care require FS funds to support

Facility Infrastructure: DDG Expansion \$1.6 mil Big Summit facility \$2 mil Heber corrals \$2 mil







- Identified need for consistent funding ~ \$50 mil/year
- Needs are recognized by partners such as Association of Fish and Wildlife Agencies and Public Lands Council
- Creative funding sources are being explored
- Need separate Budget Line







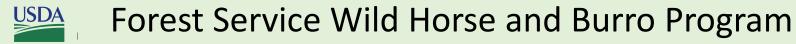
**Region 1 (Montana)** 

**Pryor Mountains** 

#### Completing NEPA and Territory Plan in conjunction with BLM







### Region 3 (Arizona and New Mexico)

State protections on non-Wild horses

**Active Cooperatives** 

Shared Stewardship with tribes

**Unauthorized livestock** 



Members of Carson Cooperative





#### **Region 4 (Nevada and Utah)**

Work closely with BLM

Drought has been a huge factor

**Conducting census flights** 







**Region 5 (California)** 

Largest FS Facility (DDG)

**Developing Territory Plans** 

**Mixed Progress in Territories** 







#### **Double Devil's Garden Corrals**

### **Modoc National Forest**

- Working with partners to complete Middle Section NEPA and improvement to Territory Management Plan
- $\circ~$  Gather and trap yearly to try to reach AML
- <u>96% placement rate</u>. Avg 4-5 months in corrals
- Partnered with multiple non-profit organizations to provide network for adopters
- 3 Challenges showcasing Devil's Garden Horses
- Provide education to the public and youth on Wild Horse Management
- DDC volunteers have logged over 10,000 hours since 2018







#### **Research Projects**

- 1) Mountain lions collared on the Modoc National Forest (Institute for Wildlife Studies)
- 2) GonaCon efficacy on Stallions (Wildlife Services)
- 3) Monitoring of GonaCon treated older mares released back onto territory







#### **Region 6 (Oregon)**

Plans to build a Wild Horse Education Center on Ochoco National Forest

Murder's Creek Territory updating Territory Plan with BLM





Contraceptives

PZP

### Gonacon

## **Remote Darting**

IUDS

## **New options Coming**







#### Training







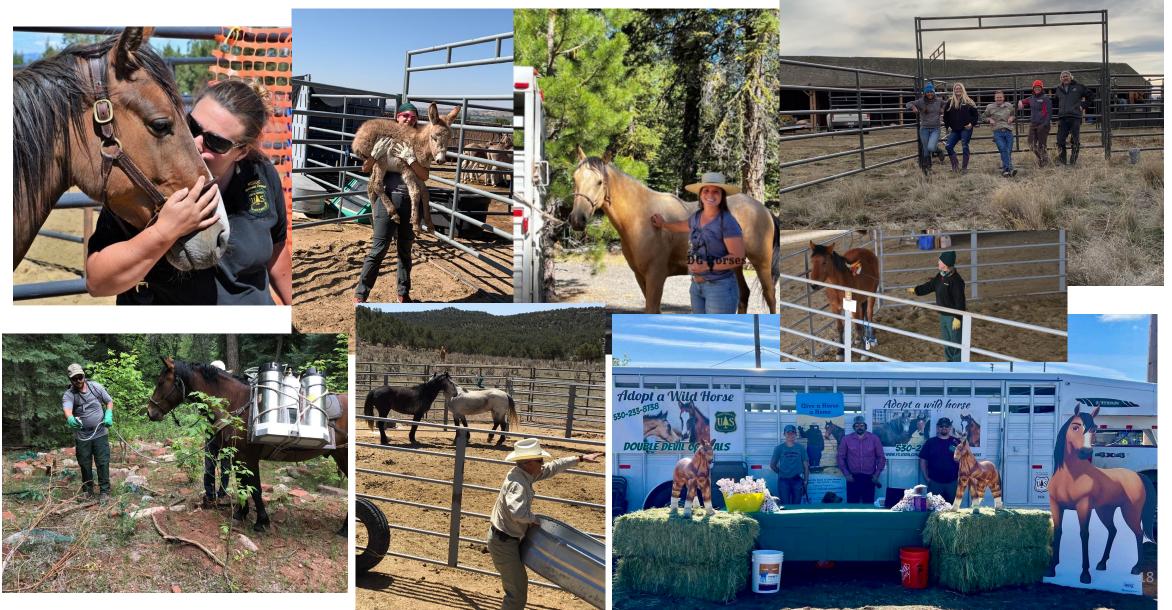


#### **Goals and Current Strategies**

- Treat with contraceptives and release back to the Territory
- Plan to continue management to reach AML
- **Continue to complete Territory Plans**
- Obtain adequate Funding
- Continue to increase public awareness of the definition of Wild horse
- Build and staff facilities to remove pressure on the BLM for FS horses
- Continue to develop and nurture partnerships







# Questions?

