



Antelope Herd Management Area Ely, Nevada White Pine County.

The final proposal was written by Jeanne Nations and presented to the RAC, Oct. 16th 2014 as the final draft Presented to the RAC Oct 16th as the final draft.

To: The Northeastern Resource Advisory Council ~ October 16, 2014

I, Jeanne Nations as a member of the Northeastern RAC, representing wild horses and burros on public lands would like to propose a pilot program for the use of Porcine Zona Pellucida (PZP) birth control vaccine, as a humane and cost effective alternative to removing wild horses from the range as recommended by the the National Academy Of Sciences. The NAS also concluded that "Continuation of 'business as usual' practices will be expensive and unproductive for BLM and the public it serves" and "Tools already exist for BLM to address many challenges." The primary tool available immediately and proven effective over decades of use is the PZP vaccine.

PZP has proven to be up to 95% effective birth control in wildlife and wild horses. It has been used in the McClough Peaks HMA of Wyoming for over ten years with a successful record of slowing down the growth rate of wild horses. It has shown a 95% efficacy on Assateague Island National Seashore, United States Department Of The Interior National Park Service near the town of Ocean City, Maryland where they have administered PZP to wild horses for over twenty five years.

My proposal is the starting point of a positive new direction for the management of our wild horses on public lands. We can not continue the endless and unsustainable cycle of rounding up and stockpiling wild horses that comes as a great cost to the wild horses and the American taxpayers.

The need for the proposal:

- 1) BLM removes thousands of wild horses from public lands each year only to warehouse the vast majority in government holding facilities. In 2001 there were approximately 5,000 wild horses in government-holding facilities. Today there are nearly 50,000 wild horses stockpiled in government-holding facilities. To care for one horse in holding over its lifetime, it will cost the taxpayers, \$50,000.
- 2) An immediate first step is to reduce the number of wild horses foaling on the range and reduce the number of horses going into long term holding by having local adoptions for the horses that are being removed from the range. The use of PZP and doing a trap site adoption will be the primary means of accomplishing this.
- 3) This proposal would include the use of PZP in a portion of the Antelope herd management area. The proposed action is expected to help meet BLM's objective of managing wild horses for a thriving ecological balance and also maintaining multiple use with other resource needs such as mining, gas and oil exploration, livestock grazing, recreation and many other uses.

I am also proposing a program called CTR (catch treat release) after carefully analyzing a portion of the Antelope HMA.

- 1) Ben Noyes, who is the wild horse specialist for this Antelope HMA, will be doing adequate NEPA to allow this project to move forward.
- 2) I propose that we start to implement this pilot program as soon as possible, most likely starting in 2015 or before if everything can be arranged in the last remaining months of 2014.

How the CTR and PZP program will work.

- 1) We will start with baiting and trapping wild horses in a portion of the Antelope HMA, in White Pine County, once we have them trapped, BLM's wild horse specialist will administer the PZP vaccine to the targeted mares. There is an estimated 50 wild horses in the proposed area. Due to last year's fires, a fence will be installed to slow the movement of these horses from north to south, however there is expected to be some interchange with horses from the east. The current population estimate of the entire Antelope HMA is 616 wild horses. The AML for the HMA is 150-324. It is expected that during trapping some of them may leave the area and return at a later time, and therefore not being trapped or treated. The approximate 25-30 wild horses removed would go to a trap site adoption for an opportunity to be adopted out before going to any long term holding facility. It is also expected we would need to trap these horses when the population exceeds 40 head in this area to pull off excess horses for adoption and re-administer the PZP.
- 2) If gather occurs through the rest of the Antelope HMA, this portion would not be gathered due to research of this pilot program. As part of the identification process, the mares that have been treated, will also be branded and photographed. A hair sample will be pulled on every horse released to create a genetic map.

- 3) Each mare will have a page in a reference book with all of her data, which will help give us an accurate guide to track the progress of our pilot program.
- 4) The number of wild horses to be included in this pilot program would be approximately 25-30 wild horses. BLM conducted a population inventory of the Antelope Herd Management area in 2013.
- 5) Any wild horses older than ten years will be released back on to public lands.
- 6) Wild horses appropriate for adoption will be removed and offered at a "trap site adoption", as a cost offset for the PZP program.
- 7) After freeze branding and vaccinations, any wild horses not adopted after a determined time frame of approximately one month, they would go to BLM holding.
- 8) The adoption process will be run by, Jeanne Nations and BLM, along with the help of community volunteers.
- 9) The adoptable wild horses will have a website for adoptions and Jeanne Nations will run the web site and advertise them to good homes only, through a BLM adopter approval process.
- 10) BLM will provide the corrals for the wild horses that are being kept for adoption. The corrals will be temporary the same as used at a gather site or any holding facility.
- 11) BLM will provide and hay and water troughs.

Why this pilot program is so important for wild horses and the American people.

- 1) We will be slowing the growth rate of wild horse herds in a portion of the Antelope HMA, in White Pine County, Nevada, therefore eliminating the need for more expensive helicopter roundups and stockpiling of horses.
- 2) We will be collecting important data, so that we can make good sound decisions as recommended by NAS.
- 3) I feel we are creating a pilot program with the use of PZP that will effectively preserve our Western Heritage on public lands
- 4) We need to have good documentation and solid research to rely on for the use of PZP and trap site adoptions in this area.
- 5) It is a proactive program, when we are currently faced with many limitations, but I believe this is something that we can do to change things for the better.

In closing:

- 1) I am very dedicated to seeing this program succeed.
- 2) I urge my fellow RAC members to pass this proposed solution unanimously for the good of all concerned.
- 3) I hope you vote to approve this recommendation. You can be part of the change for better solutions in the way our wild horses are managed. This pilot program is a progressive cost reducing logical proposal, which I know will be a very effective program here and in other districts in Nevada as well. This solution is something that we all can be proud of.

Thank you for your time and evaluation of my solution for wild horse management.

With sincere gratitude,

Jeanne Nations /Northeastern RAC Oct 16th, 2014

I wanted to mention also, that we did a quick online petition for about 6 days with American Wild Horse Preservation Campaign regarding this same proposal and we had over 19,000 people from all around the country and the world in favor of doing this pilot program. This just goes to show how badly people want a positive change in wild horse management!