



NV WH&B Strategy Update - NV Tri-RAC

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National Strategy

- ❑ Healthy rangelands, healthy WH&B
- ❑ Reduce population growth
- ❑ Reduce holding costs
- ❑ Internal/external communications

NV Strategy Cornerstones

- ❑ HMA Management
- ❑ HMA Monitoring
- ❑ Achieve & Maintain AML
- ❑ Public Education & Outreach

NV WH&B Program Concerns



- ❑ Current population 21,000
- ❑ 165% of AML (31 HMAs above AML)
- ❑ Maintain rangeland and animal health
- ❑ Accuracy of population estimates
- ❑ Appropriate funding, personnel, & facility space
- ❑ Erosion of public support

Secretary Salazar's Initiative

- **Preserves**
- **Treasured Herds**
- **Apply New Strategies Aimed at Balancing WH&B herd growth rates with public adoption demand.**

Preserves

- **Concept:** Manage preserves where large numbers of horses would be held in pastures similar to existing LTH.
 - Cooperative agreements with non-profit organizations or other private partners
 - Preserves would be open to the public
 - Educational components such as tours and interpretive centers.

Preserves

□ Implementation

- Establish government owned preserves - requires legislation and appropriations
- Partner to care for unadopted animals on privately owned preserves
- Fallback is to acquire more long term holding through traditional contracts

Treasured Herds

- **Concept:** Showcase special herds through designation as Wild Horse or Burro Ranges or other appropriate designations.
 - Special & unique qualities,
 - environmental education,
 - eco-tourism, and
 - other purposes to further the American public's understanding and appreciation of WH&Bs.

Treasured Herds

□ Implementation

□ Identify Herds for Special Designation

- amend Land Use Plans

□ Secretarial Designation

Apply New Strategies Aimed at Balancing WH&B herd growth rates with public adoption demand.

- **Concept:** Achieve AML (on the range midpoint AML population of about 21,000 – 23,000). Apply a combination of management actions to decrease annual rates of population increase and place more horses in private care.
 - fertility control
 - sex ratio adjustment
 - non-reproducing herds
 - more flexibility in adoption program to increase the numbers adopted

Tasks and Actions to Develop and Implement a New WHB Strategy

- U. S. Institute for Environmental Conflict Resolution
 - ▣ Facilitate internal and external meetings
 - identify issues
 - specific recommendations
 - develop a broader understanding of the Secretary's initiative and support for its implementation.
 - develop a public participation and outreach strategy
 - focused meetings with potential partners.

GAO Report (November, 2008) Made Five Recommendation to the Program that Require Action

- BLM to discuss with Congress and other stakeholders how best comply with the Act or amend it for compliance.**
 - Discussions are ongoing with key Congressman and Committees and development of a new WH&B management plan (outlined above) will incorporate stakeholders.

Congressional Mandate – FY2010 Appropriations Bill

- Requires a new WH&B Management Plan be submitted to Congress by September 30, 2010**

- Implementation**
 - Incorporate decisions and products from above tasks into a Report to Congress and new National Strategic Implementation Plan.

Next Steps...



- In order to achieve the Four Cornerstones of the NV Strategy
 - HMA Management
 - HMA Monitoring
 - Achieve & Maintain AML
 - Public Education & Outreach

Where / how do we proceed?

Next Steps...



HMA Management

- Evaluate AMLs
- Increase habitat monitoring
- Supportable and accurate population inventories
- HMAPs
- Increased coordination Inter-District, Inter-State, & Inter-Agency
- Sufficient staffing levels

Next Steps...



Achieve & Maintain AML

- Evaluate AMLs
- Defensible NEPA / Gather plans
- Supportable and accurate population inventories
- Reduce population growth rates
- Increased coordination Inter-District, Inter-State, & Inter-Agency

Next Steps...



HMA Monitoring

- Increase habitat monitoring
- Increase population inventories
- Increased coordination Inter-District, Inter-State, & Inter-Agency
- Sufficient staffing levels

Next Steps...



Public Education & Outreach

- Get our word out proactively
- Treasured herds
- Annual Showcase tours
- Improve the information we provide on our herds

Questions?

