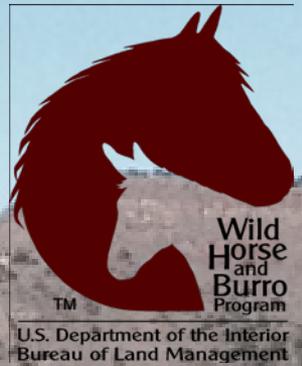


Research Update for WHB Advisory Board



Sept 2-3, 2015
Oklahoma City, Oklahoma
Paul Griffin, Research Coordinator

Wild Horse and Burro Program Research Advisory Team

- Re-formed by charter June 16, after ~2 year hiatus
- Reviews research proposals
- Collaborates with field staff
- Makes recommendation to division chief
- Current members, appointed by division chief
 - + Sue McDonnell, DVM (Advisory board liaison)
 - Paul Griffin (BLM WH&B research coordinator)
 - Brian Fuell (BLM WH&B on-range division chief)
 - Alan Shepherd (BLM Nevada WH&B state lead)
 - Al Kane, DVM (USDA APHIS veterinarian)

Current Research Directions Include:

- Reduce population growth rates
- Improve ability to model population changes in response to management actions
- Improve understanding of:
 - Movements in and between HMAs
 - Larger-scale connections between populations
 - habitat use and effects on habitats
- Improve inventory methods
- Improve understanding of adoption demand and public perceptions

Contraception and Sterilization RFA (1)

- 2014 announcement, requesting applications to improve contraception & sterilization methods
- 8 applications revised in response to review by the National Academies of Sciences
- Animal care and use protocols are reviewed by university IACUCs



Contraception and Sterilization RFA (2)

- 4 grants have been finalized:
 - ✓ Louisiana State University
(Membrane disrupting peptide LHRH conjugates)
 - ✓ Colorado State University
(Re-vaccination with GonaCon)
 - ✓ Colorado State University
(Vaccine sterilant for mares)
 - ✓ University of Kentucky
(Tubal ligation via colpotomy)

Contraception and Sterilization RFA (3)

- Grants expected to be finalized in early September:
 - Minimally invasive tubal ligation
 - Minimally invasive laser ablation of the oviduct
 - Ovariectomy via colpotomy
 - Improved strategy for long-term PZP delivery

Socio-Economic Studies

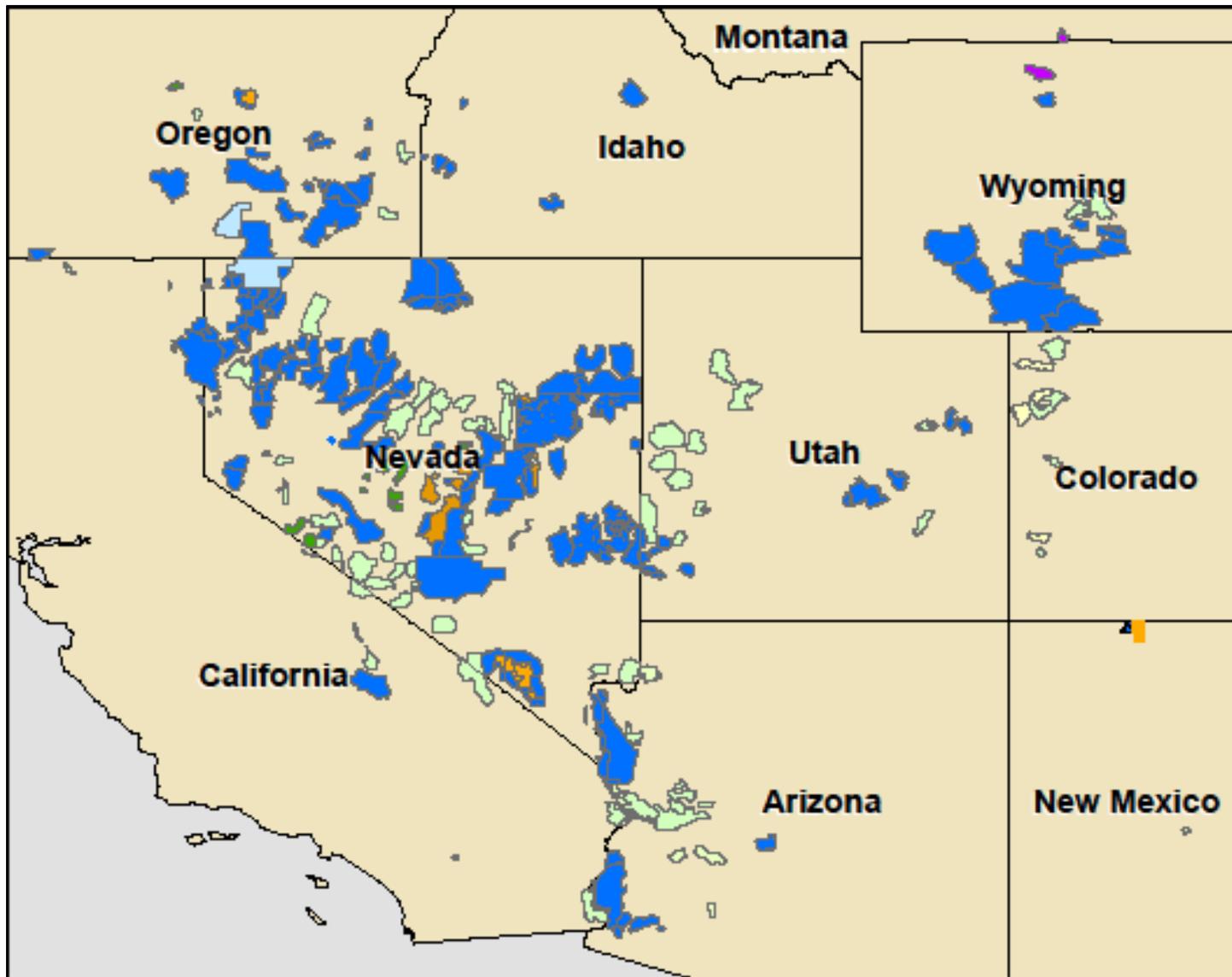
- Knowledge, Values, and Preferences Study
 - Literature review complete
 - Seeking “information collection” approval from OMB
 - Preparing for focus groups
 - Focus groups will be followed by a national survey
- Contract awarded for Demand Study, Aug 2015
 - Assess future demand for horses and burros through adoptions and sales
 - Implementation strategy for placing more animals into private care

USGS Studies



Aerial Survey, FY2015 to date

Number of HMAs surveyed with new methods (25 more planned)	48
USFS WHTs surveyed with new methods	9
Number of completed 'projects' for which USGS planned all flight paths in GIS	10 (43 HMAs)
9 'projects' have been analyzed preliminarily; 2 under analysis; data are not yet received from 3 'projects.'	
Average time from receipt of data to results memo draft being sent to district	80 days



Wild Horse and Burro Surveys
February 2014 through August 30, 2015

- BLM, HMA or HA surveyed with new methods
- BLM, HMA surveyed with ground counts
- USFS, WHT surveyed with new methods

- US F&WS, Refuge surveyed with new methods
- BLM Herd Management Area (HMA), not surveyed
- USFS Wild Horse Territory (WHT), not surveyed
- DOD lands with incomplete WH&B survey

Aerial Survey Tasks, Outstanding

- Finalize SOPs
- Database design
- Automating analyses, using program R

Other research

- University of Idaho: wild horse influence on riparian habitats
- Other proposals are under review or revision, but have not yet been approved.



Wild horses using a riparian area in Idaho.