

APPENDIX C

STANDARD BLM OPERATING PROCEDURES

For Fertility Control Treatment

The following management and monitoring requirements are part of Alternative 2:

- The 22 month pelleted Porcine zona pellucida (PZP) vaccine would be administered by trained BLM personnel.
- The fertility control drug would be administered with two separate injections: (1) a liquid dose of PZP is administered using an 18 gauge needle primarily by hand injection; (2) the pellets are preloaded into a 14 gauge needle. These are loaded on the end of a trocar (dry syringe with a metal rod) which is loaded into the jabstick which then pushes the pellets into the breeding mares being returned to the range. The pellets and liquid are designed to release the PZP over time similar to a time release cold capsule.
- Delivery of the vaccine would be as an intramuscular injection while the mares are restrained in a working chute. 0.5 cubic centimeters (cc) of the PZP vaccine would be emulsified with 0.5 cc of adjuvant (a compound that stimulates antibody production) and loaded into the delivery system. The pellets would be loaded into the jabstick for the second injection. With each injection, the liquid and pellets would be propelled into the left hind quarters of the mare, just below the imaginary line that connects the point of the hip and the point of the buttocks.
- All treated mares would be freeze-marked with two 3.5-inch letters on the left hip for treatment tracking purposes. The only exception to this requirement is that each treated mare can be clearly and specifically identified through photographs or markings. This step is to enable researchers to positively identify the animals during the research project as part of the data collection phase.
- At a minimum, estimation of population growth rates using helicopter or fixed wing surveys would be conducted the year preceding any subsequent gather. During these surveys it would not be necessary to identify which foals were born to which mares, only an estimate of population growth is needed (i.e. # of foals to # of mares).
- Population growth rates of herds selected for intensive monitoring would be estimated every year post-treatment using helicopter or fixed wing surveys. During these surveys it would not be necessary to identify which foals were born to which mares, only an estimate of population growth is needed (i.e. # of foals to # of mares). If during routine HMA field monitoring (on-the-ground), if data on mare to foal ratios can be collected, these data should also be shared with the NPO for possible analysis by the USGS.
- A PZP Application Data sheet would be used by the field applicators to record all the pertinent data relating to identification of the mare (including a photograph if the mares are not freeze-marked) and date of treatment. Each applicator would submit a PZP Application Report and accompanying narrative and data sheets would be forwarded to

the NPO (Reno, Nevada). A copy of the form and data sheets and any photos taken would be maintained at the field office.

- A tracking system will be maintained by NPO detailing the quantity of PZP issued, the quantity used, disposition of any unused PZP, the number of treated mares by HMA, field office, and state along with the freeze-mark applied by HMA.