

Forest Service Wild Horse and Burro Program



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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



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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:
 - ✓ 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



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**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



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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
- Gather and trap yearly to try to reach AML
- **96% placement rate**. 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



- 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



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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**



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Questions?

