



U.S. Department of the Interior
Bureau of Land Management

Bait-trapping Questions and Answers

What is Bait-Trapping?

A temporary corral is set up with bait for wild horses, such as hay. The corral may be set up in stages over a period of days to allow the horses to grow accustomed to it. When a certain number of horses enter the pen, the gate to the corral can be closed, confining the horses.



This is an example of a temporary corral using hay as bait to attract wild horses

How many traps will be needed?

Approximately five or six trap sites will be needed, to evenly distribute radio collared mares throughout the entire HMA.

Why is bait-trapping used for this gather?

Bait-trapping can be an ideal method for capturing a small number of selected wild horses.



This is an example of a temporary corral for wild horses

Will helicopters be used?

Helicopter gathers are an effective tool for gathering large numbers of horses and may still be used if not enough horses are captured through the bait-trapping.

What are the risks?

Injuries to wild horses are not common during helicopter or bait-trapping gathers. However, there is always a risk of injury or death to wild animals when they are captured. BLM and the contractor will do everything they can to ensure wild horses are treated humanely.

What happens to the horses after they're in the corrals?

The mares which meet the criteria for the study will be transported to the wild horse holding facility in Rock Springs, Wyoming where staff will put collars with GPS-tracking devices on the horses. The 20-30 mares that BLM will select for GPS collars will be five years old or older.

Other horses which do not meet the criteria will be released. No horses will be permanently removed.

Will there be any closures?

While no large area closures will be in effect, small local closures to some areas could occur.

How many people will be allowed at the trap site?

The number of people in the trap area will be limited to key personnel. This will help ensure success of the trapping effort as well as the safety of personnel and horses.

Who is the contractor? Have they done other bait-trap gathers?

The Adobe Town HMA has been divided into two areas for contracting purposes. Each area will have a separate wild horse bait contractor. The two wild horse bait contractors are: Shayne Sampson and Cameron Warner. Both of these contractors have been successful in bait trapping wild horses throughout the BLM.