

## **Nevada BLM Wild Horse & Burro Program Statistics (as of 12/03/2020)**

### **Basic Information on the BLM Nevada wild horses and burro program:**

- Number of WH&B Specialists in Nevada: 9
- Fiscal Year 2020 Budget Allocation: \$7.7 million
- Fiscal Year 2021 Budget Allocation: \$15.8 million
- 83 Herd Management Areas
- Current project population = 51-52,000 (as of 3/1/2020)
- State-wide Appropriate Management Level = 12,811 (includes horses & burros)
- Number of HMAs at or over AML: 66 (as of March 2020)

### **2020 Accomplishments**

- Removed 6,304 excess wild horses and burros
- Conducted 19 population inventories
- Monitored 44 HMAs
- Adopted 201 animals
- Fertility control 176 animals
- Transfer 20 saddle trained animals

### **2021 Planned Targets**

- Remove 2,490 excess wild horses/burros
- Conduct 30 population inventories
- Monitor 30 HMAs
- Adopt 200 animals
- Fertility control about 288 animals

### **Key Partnerships:**

- NV BLM in partnership with the Northern NV Correctional Center (NNCC) operates second largest WH&B holding and training program within the BLM. The NNCC the current inventory is over 1,316 excess WH&Bs and NNCC trains approximately 70-75 animals annually for adoption to the American public and other state and federal agencies.
- NV BLM and its partner NNCC is actively working with US Border patrol, US Marine Corps, US Air Force, US Army, US Forest Service, CA Fish and Wildlife, and Police Mounted Units to develop programs which they adopt NNCC trained BLM horses and use them in their daily activities.
- NV BLM and The University of Nevada, Reno, Washoe County 4-H Youth Development partnered together to offer an educational opportunity and fundraiser for the Washoe County 4-H clubs. The 4-H club gains horsemanship experience and will add value to these young wild horses and burros by gentling them and getting them used to being handled, which benefits future adoptions. The first Wild Horse and Burro Trail Challenge was held on August 1, 2020. Four wild horses and one burro was picked up from Palomino Valley Wild Horse and Burro center in early March. Out of these five animals only two horses were offered for adoption. The other animals were adopted at pick up.

### **Challenges within the State:**

- Significant overpopulation of WH&Bs across NV. Current population estimate of 51-52,000 WH&Bs is over 4 times the state-wide AML of 12,811
- 66 of 83 HMAs is at or over AML – many are 3-10 times over the established AML
- WH&B populations continue to increase and expand beyond resource capabilities of the HMAs.
- Litigation by WH&B activists and stakeholders plays a key role in WH&B management in NV.
- Lack of water and forage impacts most of NV's HMAs. These impacts are expected to increase in FY2021.
- Although the budget has grown in the Nevada program for FY21, 89 percent of these funds will be utilized to cover the operational costs of the three holding facilities within Nevada.
- Program-wide budget limitations and other National priorities continues to hamper NV's ability to achieve AMLs across the state and is causing WH&B populations to increase and expand beyond resource capabilities within the HMAs.
- Private property and public safety concerns are increasing across the state.

### **2021 Current and pending/upcoming Gathers:**

- Selenite Range HA (NV): Nuisance helicopter drive-trap gather operation concluded on December 3, 2020. The gather operations removed 218 excess wild burros. The gather was needed due to public safety concerns along highway 447 and private property concerns.
- [Ongoing] Meadow Valley Mountains/Delamar Mountains HAs (NV): Emergency helicopter drive-trap scheduled to begin on or about December 6, 2020. The BLM plans to gather and remove approximately 414 wild horses from areas in and around the Meadow Valley Mountains and Delamar Mountains Herd Areas. These management actions are in response to large wildland fires in the areas as well as limited forage and water.
- [Upcoming] Fish Creek HMA (NV): Gather operations are scheduled to begin on or about December 26, 2020. The BLM plans to gather up to 195 wild horses and remove up to 135 excess wild horses. Up to 30 mares will be treated with fertility control vaccine and released. The current estimated population is 240 wild horses and AML range is 107-180.
- [Upcoming] Eagle Complex (NV): Gather operation are projected to begin on or about January 6, 2020. The BLM plans to gather up to 1,131 wild horses and remove up to 1,081 excess wild horses. Up to 50 mares will be treated with fertility control vaccine and released. The current estimated population is 1,517 wild horses and the AML range is 139-265.

- [Upcoming] Silver King HMA (NV): Gather operations are projected to begin on or about February 6, 2020. The BLM plans to gather up to 283 wild horses and remove up to 258 excess wild horses. Up to 25 mares will be treated with fertility control vaccine and released. The current estimated population is 343 wild horses and the AML range is 60-128.
- [Upcoming] Owyhee Complex (NV): Gather operation are projected to begin on or about September 1, 2020. The BLM plans to gather up to 944 wild horses and remove up to 604 excess wild horses. Up to 175 mares will be treated with fertility control vaccine and released. The current estimated population is wild horses and the AML range is 139-265.

### **Gather Priorities**

- Within Nevada, the District Offices identify their management priorities, which are then carried forward in the state-wide priorities to address the overpopulation of the wild horse and wild burros across BLM Nevada. These priorities are then submitted to the BLM's National Program Office for further review and approval. This process follows the Instruction Memorandum No 2020-12 "Wild Horse and Burro Gather Planning, Scheduling, and Approval". Gathers are approved based on the National Program Office priorities, funding limitations, and facility space.

### **Fertility Control**

- Currently BLM Nevada utilizes fertility control vaccines such as PZP, PZP-22, and GonaCon. Nevada currently has analyzed the use of geldings in some HMAs but has not implemented gelding. Spaying is an option that has been analyzed recently but has not been selected as the proposed action in the gather documents.
- UT BLM has implemented a small number of IUDs in mares. Nevada is starting to analyze their use in documents as well.
- The current population suppression vaccine that is being researched at the Northern Nevada Correctional Center is still in a research phase and there is no preliminary data at this time.