

Appendix C

2018 Warm Springs HMA Gather Summary Report

Wild horses and burros from Warm Springs HMA were gathered from October 2-23, 2018 by Sun J Livestock (John & Jody Holmes). A total of 845 horses, 41 burros and 2 mules were captured. Of the horses gathered there were 190 foals, 340 mares, and 315 studs. Of the burros captured there were 8 foals, 12 jennies, and 23 jacks. Mules were one female and one male. Following the gather, an estimated 30 horses and 30 burros remained in the HMA. To date, no horses have been released/returned to the range due to pending litigation regarding the gather and spay study.

This gather was conducted due to horses and burros being in excess of AML, the southwest side of the HMA quickly running out of water, and to prepare for a proposed spay feasibility and on-range behavioral assessment project. For the project, gathered horses were to be identified as to where the pilot found the horses in relation to the north/south division fence between East & West Warm Springs allotments. This way horses could be marked depending on where they were found and then returned to the appropriate side of the HMA to be used as a Treatment group and a Control group – For the first two years of the study this would reduce the potential for horses to cross the division fence and mix study groups. Horses found within a few miles from the division fence were considered “Middle” horses and marked pink to designate that they would not be returned to the range. East was green and West was orange.

Three trap sites were used during this gather (see attached map). The first trap was just south of Basque Flat well along the Basque Flat Road (approximately 321273/4779266 NAD 83). 477 horses and 21 burros were captured at Trap 1 (many of these burros were roped). The second trap was set up on the flat northeast of Iron Mountain off of the Big Stick Road (approximately 306333/4794677). 291 horses, 20 burros and 2 mules were captured at Trap 2. Of the horses caught here, 8 were domestics that were grazing on the Department of State Lands adjacent to the west side of the HMA. Seven to eight wild horses had been residing in that area for the past several years which caused us to mistakenly capture these domestic horses. The third trap was set up just off of the Jack Mountain Road near Job Corp Waterhole #1 (approximately 340515/4765569). 78 horses were captured at the third trap site near Jack Mountain.

All horses gathered were hauled by trailer to the temporary holding facility set up on private property at the junction of South Harney Lake Road and Iron Mtn.–Moon Road.

Body condition scores ranged from 3-6 depending on age (some thin older horses) and where they came from on the HMA. Horses from East Warm Springs were generally closer to BCS 4-6, while horses from West Warm Springs were closer to 3-5. This is assumed to be due to distances travelled to water as there is ample feed in both allotments but with fewer water

sources on the west side. Four horses were lost during the gather due to acute deaths: 2 month old filly received a head injury after capture; 3 month old filly died of gather myopathy after transport to temporary holding; 3 year old mare died of a broken neck after running into a panel while being sorted at the trap (mare was double club footed in the front); and 6 month old filly died after transport to temporary holding with a necropsy concluding exercise induced pulmonary hemorrhage (EIPH) was the cause of death. 28 additional horses were humanely euthanized due to pre-existing head or limb injuries (8), vaginal-rectal tear resulting in chronic partial rectal prolapse with poor prognosis for recovery (1), sway back (1), club foot (3), severe pneumonia (2), and angular limb deformity (13). Most of the angular limb deformity horses were caught on 10/5 with two others on 10/9 and 10/10. After discussions with the APHIS veterinarian on site, we believe that this was a genetic issue as it was observed in only a few bands from the Middle section of the HMA. Of those few bands, several of the horses had the deformity.

The majority of the gathered horses exhibited decent saddle horse confirmation. Height varied greatly from 13 hands to 17 hands. Color phases included many appaloosas (various varieties), roans (most on the northeast side of the HMA), duns, bays, blacks, sorrels, white and many pintos.

Because the goal of this gather was to capture up to 100 percent of the horses, the contractor spent many hours and days flying the HMA and was able to collect a good estimate of the remaining horses on the HMA (25-35). Not post gather survey was conducted by BLM because we were confident in the pilot's count.

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