

Project Summary
Rocky Mountains Cooperative Ecosystem Studies Unit

Task Agreement #: G20AC00346

Project Title: Ecology of Wild Horses and Burros in the Rocky Mountain Region and western USA

Discipline: Natural

Type of Project: Technical Assistance/Research

Funding Agency: United States Geological Survey

Other Partners/Cooperators: Colorado State University

Student Participation: No

Effective Dates: 08/05/2020 08/04/2021

Funding Amount: \$442,580.00

Investigators and Agency Representative:

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Project Abstract:

Wild Horses and Burros Goals and Objectives include:

1. Test the use of radio collars on free-roaming wild horses and burros

Project goal: To determine any impacts on health or behavior of wild equids when fitted with radio telemetry devices. FY21

goal: Finish gathering data and publish results

2. Determine the demography, behavior and ecology of wild horse mares

Project goal: To evaluate the effects of applying long-term fertility control to female horses

on their behavior, ecology and short-term demography and population growth rates, by comparing the same individuals pre and post-treatment and with controls, and by comparing effects on population growth with a paired un-treated population.

This will be the first study of the effects of long-term fertility control on the behavior and spatial ecology of wild horses and will provide information useful to management of wild horse populations. FY21 goal: Find a suitable study area and method of sterilization or long-term fertility control, fit wild horses with radio collars and tags, apply treatment to adult mares in a treatment herd. Commence collecting data on demography, behavior, and ecology of horses once returned to the range.