



BOTSTIBER INSTITUTE
FOR WILDLIFE FERTILITY CONTROL

Fertility Control to Mitigate Human-Wildlife Conflicts

September 30, 2020 at 3:30 PM

The Wildlife Society (TWS) 27th Annual Conference

September 27 – October 1, 2020, Louisville, Kentucky

BLM Wild Horse and Burro Fertility Management; Application and Research

Paul Griffin, Bureau of Land Management

The Bureau of Land Management (BLM) is a multiple use agency that manages the Public Lands for their health and diversity, and the enjoyment of current and future generations. Two of BLM's management goals for wild horses and burros (WHB) are to protect and manage WHB as a component of public lands, and to maintain a thriving natural ecological balance and avoid rangeland deterioration. Balancing these goals requires keeping WHB herd sizes at appropriate management levels (AML), based on available resources and other multiple uses. With over 95,000 BLM-managed WHB living on-range, herd sizes are far larger than AML in most herd management areas (HMA) across the American west, and wild horse herds commonly grow at rates over 20% per year. BLM has used fertility control vaccines, sex ratio manipulations, and gelding to help in slowing or stabilizing WHB population growth. The effectiveness of existing vaccines has limited duration. Fertility control measures, alone, cannot bring overpopulated herd sizes down to AML in the time scale needed to protect rangeland resources. BLM supports development and testing of longer-lasting fertility control methods, including intrauterine devices (IUDs), mare sterilization, and new fertility control vaccines. The current status and future of fertility control technologies to manage peri-urban kangaroo populations in eastern Australia