



WILD HORSES

of America Foundation

Sinbad Wild Burro Gather – Utah (Day 3)

DATE: 13 April 2016
LOCATION: Temple Mountain Road (Exit 131) and I-70
BURROS GATHERED: 19

INTRODUCTION: Today, the contractor decided to leave the trap behind and work the north side of I-70. The helicopters would push the burros into a big meadow and the mounted riders would then rope and lead them to the trailer. We heard that they felt this was easier than trying to push the burros into the trap. If they were able to rope the burro early we couldn't observe it from the public viewing area, however we saw those burros who made it farther. I stayed until about 1:30 PM and then headed home.

Jim Schnepel
Wild Horses of America Foundation

JIM'S NOTES:

- 19 burros were gathered today. They were combined with yesterday's 14 and shipped by trailer to the Axtell holding facility.
- All of the gathered burros, even those slated for return to the range, will be trailered to Axtell. BLM feels that trailering the to-be-returned burros to Axtell makes sense because: It's a relatively short drive from the HMA, they won't have to pay to store the burros on-site, putting on the collars will be easier where they have the right equipment (chutes and squeeze chute), and the scientists aren't scheduled to start their work until the 25th.
- All of the burros gathered today were marked with a green stripe so that they can be tracked at the holding facility. BLM wants to return all of the burros who are gathered from the north side of I-70 because they'd like to encourage use of this portion of the HMA. They may also release to the north side some burros who were gathered from the south side of I-70 to increase the population. They would be released with burros who know where to find water on the north side. In my Day 1 summary I wrote that

the north side comprised about 75% of the total area of the HMA, while in reality it's probably closer to 55-60%. (Photo courtesy of Gus Warr of the BLM.)



- The green stripe is a product specifically designed for marking livestock. It is non-toxic and will wear off in a few weeks.



- The burros who will be returned (to north and south sides of I-70) will be fitted with tracking devices. The jennies will be fitted with a radio telemetry collar that can be remotely released via GPS should it become an

issue. The collars will be programmed to fall off in 1 year and will be identifiable from a distance so that individuals can be identified. The jacks will have GPS trackers woven into their manes since they don't do as well with collars. (Note: As I write this the BLM Advisory Board meeting is live streaming. I just heard one of the USGS scientists mention that only the jennies will be tracked. I'm not sure if he is right, or just didn't mention the jacks.)

- During one of the gather attempts the mounted rider lost hold of his rope after he had lassoed the burro. The burro ran off with a few riders giving chase. With help from the helicopter they were able to get more ropes on the burro and escort it to the trailer.





- Each roped burro was led back to the trailer. Getting the burro to the trailer often went more smoothly than the final push to get him into the trailer.



- To make it easier to get the burros into the trailer the contractor dug holes to lower the trailer and made a dirt ramp to smooth the transition to the floor of the trailer. (Photo courtesy of Gus Warr of the BLM.)



- The gathered burros were initially taken to the on-site temporary corrals. (Photos courtesy of Gus Warr of the BLM.)



- Other pictures:









I may go back to the gather next week.

Jim

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