



## **Saving the McCullough Peaks Herd**

Bait Trapping to start November 15, 2023 – March 2023 removing 63 adult wild horses

### **Suggested Talking Points by Carol J. Walker**

1. The management of this herd has been touted by the BLM as one of the great success stories of using PZP birth control to manage its numbers since 2011 with a 2% average annual growth rate. So why is the BLM doing a roundup?
2. This is an ageing herd. 1/3 of the herd is over 15, 22 are over 20. Many will die over the winter, which could bring the numbers below low Appropriate Management Level after 63 are removed.
2. Genetic Viability is a real concern. Dr. Gus Cothren the leading geneticist on wild horses says 150 breeding aged adults need to be present to ensure genetic viability. Many mares are already sterile after multiple years of PZP. There have been no genetic measurements done on the herd since the roundup of 2004. This should be done before any removal.
3. GonaCon sterilizes wild mares. Every mare over 13 who has had a foal will be given GonaCon yet there have been no studies on the effects of using GonaCon after a mare has been given PZP. Darting a stallion by mistake with GonaCon will kill him. This is a slow route to eradication of this herd.
4. Remote bait trapping will be done – with cameras at the trap and BLM staff 1 hour away at the BLM Field Office doing monitoring. What if the cameras or remote release on the trap fail in the cold weather, and horses become injured or hung up in the trap?
5. No information was published in the Environmental Assessment on the effects on the range from wild horse grazing or livestock grazing, and this needs to be present to justify a removal. This EA needs to be redone before any action is taken.
6. Where are the horses going after being captured? Wheatland is a private facility with very limited ability to adopt from. Rock Springs would be a much better choice as people would be able to see and adopt the horses.
7. Sanctuaries and individuals should be allowed the opportunity to take at risk older horses who might be lame or have worn teeth rather than euthanizing them once captured.
8. This is one of the most beloved herds in the country, visited by people all over the world. This roundup needs to be prevented.

### **People to Contact**

Tracy Stone-Manning, Director of the BLM: **Phone:** 202-208-3801 **Fax:** 970-256-4997

Cody Chamber of Commerce: [\(307\) 587-2777](tel:3075872777) email: [info@codychamber.org](mailto:info@codychamber.org) Tell them how much \$ you spend in Cody visiting the horses.

Contact Media – television, print, online, especially in WY and MT.

Share on Socials, check with Wild at Heart Images and Wild Hoofbeats pages on Instagram and Facebook for updates.

Come up with ideas to get the word out. Remember to be civil and respectful.