



## STEERING COMMITTEE WORKING GROUP

DATE : 3/9/22

**Attending:** Angie Jensen, Celeste Carlisle, Terry Messmer, Jason Bruemmer, Tammy Pearson, Mark Boshell, Sarah King, Doug Brimeyer, Eric Thacker, Kate Schoenecker

**Next Meeting:** April 13, 2022, 1 PM MTN

### Discussion:

- Terry reported that at the AFWA Committee Meeting, Scott Fleur spoke highly of GonaCon. The BLM is planning on treating 2200 horses with fertility control in 2022 – 800 of those are horses darted by volunteer groups. There were 7300 adoptions and sales last year. Sales were animals over 5 years of age. BLM's goal is to get to 27,000 horses on the range, then use fertility control. BLM does still desire longer-acting fertility control.
- Tammy updated us on the Sulphur gather in Utah: BLM has completed the gather. This area is looking into strictly using GonaCon. They do not seem interested in IUDs.
- Celeste reminded everyone that the PZP story is more complex than the better-known PZP vaccine (Zona-StatH) that requires an annual booster. PZP-22, when boosted properly, can give at least 4 years' high efficacy.
- Jason reminds us that PZP-22 does not have EPA approval. He is working with John Turner (University of Toledo) to look at the variabilities and efficacy of both PZP-22 and GonaCon. The way BLM is using GonaCon right now is not correct (boosting too quickly).
- Terry asks if the focus of the 2022 Summit should be fertility control?
- Celeste adds that we should also begin to attack the future of the program and the needs that interested organizations can tangibly shore up: if many horses need to come off the range and go into holding, where is that holding? Further, do we want the Summit to be a place to discuss the "sticky issues"? (For example: what forms of fertility control are acceptable?)
- Terry agrees, noting that FREES can be part of these more difficult conversations. He also reminded us that the **Summit is OCTOBER 12-14, 2022, St. George, Utah.**
- Terry tells us we need to firm up Pathways. Respond to Stephanie if you have not.
- The multistate grant to start looking at equids launches **October 2022**. This includes 14 organizations in ten states and covers: the economics of the issue; fertility control; human dimensions; youth engagement; and range and ecology.
- Celeste and Eric describe the conversation they had with David Jenkins and Brian St. George about the new Atlas Database that the DOI is pulling together. This database will show conservation efforts on public lands. BLM seems reluctant to utilize this approach to show horse and burro data. Eric and Tammy and Mark note that establishing what "conservation" is will be important and seems nebulous at the moment.

### Other items:

- Angie is beginning to update the FREES website.

### Action Items:

- All:  
Double-check emails about the Pathways Conference and respond to Stephanie

Edit/suggestions to website and reply to Angie

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Join Zoom Meeting

<https://usu-edu.zoom.us/j/89232940144?pwd=cUhzMmpHeGg0RzlmeWJ4L092SWdzdz09>