



Wild Horse Tourism in NM

How the Jicarilla Ranger District of the Carson National Forest can utilize the Jicarilla Wild Horses Territory (JWHT) for Eco-Tourism, Rural Economic Development, Preservation of the Historical and Cultural Identities of New Mexico, and Natural History Education.

Overview

- **Eco Tourism Vision**
- **Herd Size**
- **USDA Forest Service Expenditures**
- **Population Control**
- **Funding**
- **Grazing**

Eco Tourism Vision

A herd size of 200 is necessary

- **A herd large enough to have enough sightings of varied horses for a major tourism draw.**
- **Herd size of 200 cited by the BLM experts for genetic viability.**
- **Tourism testimonial at JWHT shows 200+ is just right.**

Cost for 200 vs. 50 Herd Size Comparable

- **Administrative Staff and costs** would be virtually the same.
 - See (Current Herd Maintenance Costs)
- **Tourism Income** may be generated.

PZP for Population Control Benefits

SAFER Less horse handling and transporting,
Helicopter count not needed. \$5000 savings
Vet Costs may be same or less vaccinate or not.
No follow-up adoption inspections.
Darting cost equal or less than round-up/horse
Horse transport vehicles not needed.
No feeding costs during holding. \$1.50/horse-day
No holding pen costs 1000/month for 2 months.

PZP Population Control requirements

- Humane Society License
- Darts and darting equipment needed.
- PZP cost additional \$31/horse.

Eco-Tourism Phase I

Advertise

- **International Ecotourism websites, Equinetoursim.com**
- **New Mexico State Tourism Dept**
- **Local Chambers of Commerce.**
- **Local Fiestas** in Aztec and Bloomfield
- **“Foster” a Horse** Program on paper only.
- **Educational Tours** for a fee - natural history of the horse
- **Local Youth** photograph and monitor the herd and fences during the summers to provide more materials.

Eco-Tourism Phase II

Events

- **Tie into other herds in NM such as El Rito, Mt Taylor Mustangs, NMHP, Native American herds.**
- **Link/Staggered the local wild horse fiestas in time all ending at the state fair.**
- **Spanish Colonial Endurance Rides**
- **Have Spanish Colonial National in place of the Arabian Nationals.**
- **Develop books, movies, and memorabilia for sale on/off line with X% going to preserve the herd.**

Funding Possibilities

- **Grants** through Non-Profits such as WHOA for humane herd maintenance, educational programs for youth and research etc.
- **Funding** from the **New Mexico State** Legislature through the NM State Tourism Dept for advertising etc.
- **Dept. of Rural Economic Development** and Local Colleges for further advertising, volunteers and tourism program development.
- **Oil/Gas Companies** could be approached for donations for a Positive PR campaign regarding the JWHT.

PZP Population Control

- The population at Assateague National Park has dropped from 173 animals to 164 over the ten year period during the time the vaccine has been used at the management level.
- PZP is very safe, can dart a pregnant mare or double dart without issue.

PZP Implementation

- **Dart without round up, all mares for the first 3 to 4 years.**
 - **No booster shot first year, PZP will have 50% efficacy. Second year will be 90% effective.**
 - **Darting costs are no more than the round-up costs per horse**
 - **Dart 1 and two year olds as well.**
 - **Later dart more selectively based on herd needs.**
- **Allow each mare one breeding as on ASIS for genetics preservation.**
- **Obtain population modeling**

Grazing Is Conserved

- Deer and Elk population
 - 2000 Deer and 1000 Elk
- Keeping the wild horse herd at 200 will slightly inhibit deer and elk from migrating through the JWHT.
- It will also inhibit horses from the Jicarilla reservation from flowing over onto the JWHT.
- The nine Permitee's cattle have been at low numbers this yr 25 versus the 150 or so permits.
- When grazing is scarce the wild horses will move onto the rest of the Carson National Forest.

Future Tourism Costs

Could be covered by fund raising efforts.

- Tour Bus and Maintenance
- Volunteer Housing
- Camping facilities
- Educational Tours Development

Promotional Material Wild Horse Preserves

- **Foster Horse Materials from Assateague Maryland**
- **Return to Freedom's, Ca Film showing PZP darting and Educational Tours.**
- **Black Hills Sanctuary Pamphlet (They have some NM USDA Forest Service horses)**

Soft Copy Attachments

- Governor Richardson letter of support
- US Representative Tom Udall's two letters of support
 - Support for Herd Size
 - Support for Wild Horse Tourism
- SM2 Improve Management of Wild Horse (Final Version)
- SM2 with unanimous Senate Vote
- SM2 financial analysis showing NM State Dept. of Tourism support
- SB296 financial analysis-strong NM State Tourism Dept. support
- WHOA Tourism Package
- Wild Horse Pictures JWHT and El Rito (Forest Service)
- Stan Dykes herd maintenance Estimates for Jicarilla herd, response to questionnaire.

Articles/Films/Brochures/Q&A's

1. Black Hills Grant Review April 2005
2. Black Hills Brochure
3. Return to Freedom DVD showing PZP darting
4. Return to Freedom Brochure
5. Kirkpatrick Eco Tourism Questions
6. Managing Wild Horses Through Fertility Control
By Jay F. Kirkpatrick, Ph.D., Director, The Science and
Conservation Center (Billings, MT)
7. Linda Coates predators
8. Carl Zimmerman Eco Tourism Questions
9. Carl Zimmerman Eco Tourism Questions2
10. Jicarilla Tourism Testimonial
11. Chincoteague Q&A Tourism

Future Gathers

- **If future gathers are deemed necessary in the JWHT, until PZP population control was achieved, it is worth considering gathering only yearlings as they may have an easier adjustment.**