



### **Mount Taylor Mustangs, LLC**

#### **Summary Report for January 1, 2023 – December 31, 2023, Sandoval County Project FY24-SOCS-04: Administration and Management of a Fertility Control Program for the Free-Roaming Horses in the Placitas Area**

Population Survey, Administration of Fertility Control, & Tracking & Monitoring of Treated Horses Findings from herd survey and tracking activities, and immunocontraception treatment conducted during 2023 for the Placitas free-roaming horses show:

- 168 horses are roaming the community in 22 bands;
- 3 fillies received PZP primer treatments, and 75 booster treatments were given;
- 3 new foals were observed in 2023 as compared to 6 new foals observed in 2022 and 10 new foals observed in 2021.

- Numbers of new foals born have declined annually beginning in 2020, the first year that immunocontraception treatment took effect, from a pre-treatment baseline of 23 new foals observed in 2019 by Mount Taylor personnel. Estimates are that 26 or 27 foals were born in 2019, based on community reports of sightings of 3 or 4 additional foals that later disappeared and/or for which carcasses were found. Mount Taylor Mustangs is using the most conservative number of 23 foals for the annual baseline foaling number.
- An 88% reduction in reproduction for 2023 was achieved, as compared to the 2019 pre-treatment baseline for reproduction using the conservative 2019 number of 23 new foals.
- The 88% reduction in reproduction achieved in 2023 along with the 74% reduction in reproduction achieved for 2022, the 57% reduction in reproduction achieved for 2021, and the 70% reduction achieved for 2020 inform the continued refining of PZP treatment based on the unique characteristics of this herd, to address factors such as the elongated breeding cycle.
- The majority of horses observed throughout 2023 were in good to excellent body condition.

#### Consultation to the County, Public Presentations, and Associated Reports

- Provided regular project reviews to Jayme Espinoza, Director of Community Services;
- provided 4 quarterly updates for the Sandoval County website;
- awaiting potential policy changes that will inform the next update to the Herd Management Plan Working Draft;
- provided approximately 25 contacts to community members.

Thank you for the opportunity to work with Sandoval County on behalf of the free roaming horses of Placitas and the Placitas community.



1-31-24

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Karen Herman, Mount Taylor Mustangs

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Date