



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

## **Summary Report for January 1, 2025 – December 31, 2025, Sandoval County Project FY25-SCCS-04: Administration and Management of a Fertility Control Program for the Free-Roaming Horses in the Placitas and Sandia Park Area**

### **Placitas - Population Survey, Administration of Fertility Control, & Tracking & Monitoring of Treated Horses**

Findings from herd survey, tracking activities, and immunocontraception treatment conducted during 2025 for the Placitas free-roaming horses show:

- 178 horses are roaming the community in 23 bands;
- 84 PZP treatments were given;
- 5 new foals were observed in 2025\* as compared to 2 new foals observed in 2024, 3 new foals observed in 2023 and 6 new foals observed in 2022;
- numbers of new foals 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 81% reduction in reproduction for 2025 was achieved, as compared to the 2019 pre-treatment baseline for reproduction using the most conservative number of 23 foals.

- Reductions in reproduction achieved for 2020 through 2024 are 70%, 57%, 74%, 88%, and 91% respectively. These data 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 2024 were in good to excellent body condition.

\*The increase in foaling from 2 foals in 2024 to 5 foals in 2025 was partially caused by a delay in starting 2025 PZP treatment due to contract renewal.

Projections based on research by the National Academy of Sciences are that the Placitas herd would number over 340 horses today if fertility control had not been implemented, as most herds double in population every 5 years. National Academy of Sciences. (2013). Using Science to Improve the BLM Wild Horse and Burro Program: A Way Forward. *National Academies Press*, Washington, DC, 800, 624 – 6242.

**Sandia Park - Population Survey, Administration of Fertility Control, & Tracking & Monitoring of Treated Horses** Findings from the herd survey and immunocontraception treatment for 2025 for the Sandia Park free-roaming horses show:

- 26 horses have been observed roaming in 3 bands to date;
- 18 PZP treatments were given;
- horses observed were in excellent body condition;
- initial herd survey is on-going.

#### 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 92 contacts to community members.

Thank you for the opportunity to work with Sandoval County on behalf of the free roaming horses of Placitas and Sandia Park and the respective communities.

*Karen Herman*

2-23-26

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Karen Herman, Mount Taylor Mustangs

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Date