

BLM Partners with Wild Love Preserve

The Challis Wild Horse herd are descendants of domestic horses miners and ranchers either turned out purposefully or escaped in the 1870s. Many were “blooded stock” that were managed locally until the passage of the Wild and Free Roaming Horses and Burros Act of 1971. The BLM is required to maintain a healthy Challis Wild Horse herd of 185 horses, a level developed based upon extensive research and public input. The Challis herd can double every four years, which necessitates a gather to maintain a healthy herd.

In October 2012 the Challis Field Office successfully gathered 150 horses for adoption. By December 2012 all but 85 horses had been adopted or held for the 4-H Weanling Program.

One attendee of the Challis gather, Andrea Maki, owner and founder of Wild Love, along with her partners, adopted the remaining horses, and a few others under sale authority. She and her organization are now caring for 126 horses with help from volunteers. Maki’s goal



Wild Love PZP darting in 2014. The first horse ever darted for fertility control occurred in Challis in 1978. WLP is the first group to ever dart with Pacific Zona Pellucida (PZP) in the State of Idaho.



Kevin Kubit, Wild Horse Specialist, BLM Challis Field Office



Andrea Maki, founder of Wild Love Preserve

is to create a community-based wild horse preserve near the Challis Herd Management Area in central Idaho. The preserve, known as the Wild Love Preserve, includes parts of the steep, rugged country near the Salmon River and is fully funded by donations and fund raising activities.

However, the Challis Wild Horse herd continues to grow, making it clear that there is a need to manage the rate of reproduction. Maki received permission to administer contraception via dart to a small group of horses residing on private land after being certified by the Science and Conservation Center in 2012. The coordinated darting effort was successfully completed in June of 2014; marking the first time PZP darting has occurred in Idaho. BLM staff is monitoring the success of the program to see if similar things can be implemented at a larger scale.

The collaboration between the BLM and the Wild Love Preserve is a work in progress, but is setting an example for a community-based wild horse sanctuary.

“Indeed it takes a village”
- Andrea Maki

