

Volunteers needed for help with a feral horse study

USGS and Colorado State University are conducting scientific research to aid the BLM in management of free-roaming horses on public lands. We are undertaking a study to examine the population genetics of feral horses through non-invasive sampling of DNA in their dung. We are seeking volunteers to help collect samples in three sessions over 7–10 days starting May 19th, August 18th, and November 10th. We are happy for volunteers to participate in one or all sessions. This is an opportunity to explore an area of outstanding natural beauty, learn about scientific procedures of genetic and ecological studies, and contribute to important research. Training on sample collection and field storage will be provided.

Field work will consist of collecting samples of feral horse dung from across a Horse Management Area. Volunteers must be willing and able to spend all day hiking across remote and rugged terrain in varied weather conditions, and capable of carrying loads of up to 30lbs. Volunteers will be eligible for a travel camping per diem of \$20/day at the end of the field session. We will camp for the duration of each field session. Transport will be provided to and from the field site from Fort Collins or Boulder, Colorado.

To apply please send a letter of interest to Dr. Sarah King at sarah.king@colostate.edu. Review of applicants is ongoing and will continue until 3-5 posts are filled.