

## **2000 Findings Report on the Shackleford Banks Horses: Population, Structure and Health**

Harkers Island, NC - Federal legislation, passed in 1998, protects the horses within Cape Lookout National Seashore and requires an annual report on the status of the herd. In April 1999, a Memorandum of Understanding was signed between the National Park Service and the Foundation for Shackleford Horses, Inc., for joint management of the horses on Shackleford Banks.

There were 114 horses on the island in January 1999. This was determined during the roundup, when all the horses were gathered. The herd was 53 % female and 47 % male. The 17 foals of 1998 included 7 females and 10 males. All 114 horses tested negative for Equine Infectious Anemia.

A census completed in August 1999 reported 112 horses present. This included 23 foals: 13 female and 10 male. (One foal was born in September.) There were 14 harems at that time, and at least 4 additional bachelor bands. A November census confirmed 127 horses on Shackleford.

The January 2000 roundup gathered the 130 horses living on the island. The herd was 53 % female and 47 % male. This included 23 foals of 1999. All 130 horses tested negative for Equine Infectious Anemia.

Twelve horses were removed for adoption through the Foundation for Shackleford Horses, Inc. These were six foals of 1999, five foals of 1998, and one horse foaled in 1997.

An August 2000 census recorded 134 horses including 17 foals of the year. There were 19 harems at that time, and at least 4 additional bachelor bands.

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