



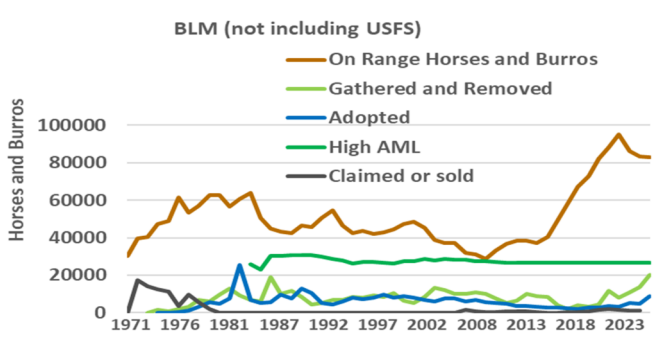
Healthy Western Lands = Sustaining Free-Roaming Horses, Burros, Wildlife, Habitats, Ecosystems, Multiple Land Uses, and Taxpayers



Population management—Bureau of Land Management Warm Springs wild horse gather (45079847511).jpg [Wikimedia Commons](#)

Free-roaming horses and burros require population management to achieve a “thriving natural ecological balance and multiple use relationship” - meeting land health standards with herds at appropriate management level (AML).

After a 36-year struggle with gathers, adoptions, sales of unadoptable animals, and off-range holding, agencies almost achieved AML in 2007, but in and after the Great Recession we allowed a 332% increase by 2020.



Too many horses and burros, those above AML, increases destruction of water and food, habitat for horses, burros, wildlife and pollinators. Bare soil accelerates erosion.



Hungry horses and water source on Spruce Pequop HMA, Nevada

Fertility treatments do not achieve AML or reduce, impacts to wildlife, horses, horse habitats, and ecosystem resilience. Current fertility control methods require frequent treatments, because they are short-term. After gathering to AML, fertility control could reduce needed gathers.



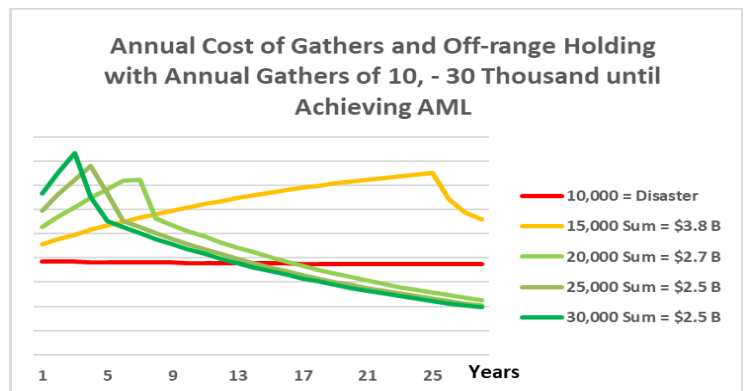
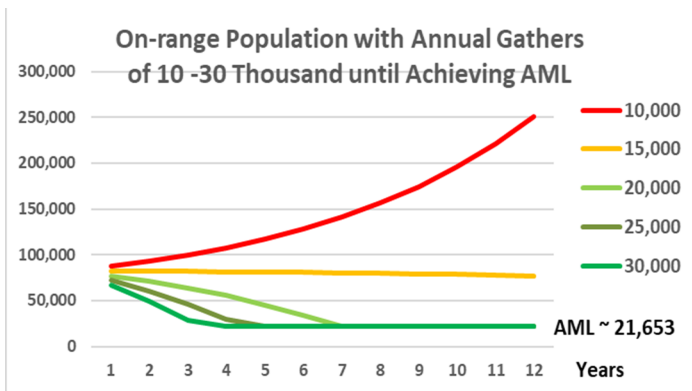
Chin Creek Allotment riparian meadow photo by S. McCue 2016.

Achieving AML would make the Wild and Free-Roaming Horse and Burro Program sustainable.

Healthy Western Lands means achieving AML quickly and then sustaining public lands by maintaining AML.



91,123 BLM and FS wild horses and burros in 2023 were 316% of AML.



The number of animals causing overgrazing or not depends on the annual number gathered to achieve AML. Gathering more horses annually, >20,000, saves money. Excess horses, those above AML, produce more excess horses.

Healthy Western Lands Help All of Us

Advocates for: Benefit because:

Horse welfare	Horses are healthier on range and in off-range pastures with single-sex herds or adopted
Fertility control	Fertility control can become effective and less gathering is needed after AML
Ecosystem resilience	Thriving natural ecological balance = land health standards met
Less impactful fires	Healthy bunchgrasses resist cheatgrass and its fire cycle
Wildlife	Wildlife habitat improves. Riparian areas keep water on the land longer
Outdoor recreation	Enjoy healthy wild horses, healthy wildlife and healthy beautiful public lands
Carbon capture	Only healthy plants - grazed so they retain leaf area for photosynthesis or recover after grazing - can store soil organic carbon
Taxpayers	Save money when AML reduces gathering and off-range holding costs
Consumers	Ecosystem services increase - benefits include clean water, air, food and biodiversity
Politicians	Support a win/win/win
BLM and USFS	At AML - all excess horses adoptable



Deer Springs is located in the Antelope Valley HMA – No livestock has grazed the area around the spring since the early 1980's. Picture on left taken in 1984 and the one on the right taken in 2021.

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<https://www.healthynvlands.org/>