

I am writing my comment in opposition to the letter by the Coalition For Healthy Nevada Lands ... urging for more money for further wild horse and burro roundups. I am a citizen of this great country, a resident of awesome Nevada and a dutiful federal taxpayer.

The Coalition would have you believe that the horses and burros are wreaking “havoc on our native wildlife and fragile, arid rangeland ecosystems”. They mention squirrels and mule deer, but nowhere is there any mention of the millions of animals that do indeed **dominate** the Nevada rangelands in sheer numbers – the livestock.

43 million acres of Nevada’s public land is authorized for grazing. To put that into perspective, that is about twice the size of South Carolina or Kentucky. The cost of grazing on public lands per month – the AUM is \$1.35 for a cow and calf in 2023. That is, it costs approximately \$17 to graze a cow and a calf on public lands for an entire year. But government contract records show that there is an even **more** lucrative business out there on the range. Wild horse roundups have become a self-perpetuating enterprise. Millions and millions of dollars paid to these service contractors!

The Coalition would have you believe that this is a “crisis on our public lands” and that the only way to deal with such a crisis is to have the Government pay out millions **more** to these contractors. Because this is after all taxpayer's money – millions and millions of dollars going to livestock operators to roundup, remove and feed these wild horses. The price difference between grazing a cow on public land versus removing a wild horse to feed in feed lots is astounding! While this may provide very lucrative jobs for a relatively few, this is in essence subsidization by taxpayer's money.

I must therefore as a taxpayer conclude that the letter from the Coalition asking for further funding for further roundups is not based on any sound economic sense. If the Coalition is **really** concerned about the health of our rangelands, they certainly need to assess it in its entirety – with the damage being done by **all** the animals. Obviously, there are greater forces at work here.

The Coalition would have you believe that citing the 1971 Wild Horse and Burros Act in their letter, the very Act put in place to protect these wild horses and burros, somehow gives them further credibility. But what the Coalition should rather be doing is to quote the Act itself - that Wild Horses and Burros are “**living symbols of the historic and pioneer spirit of the West, and that they contribute to the DIVERSITY of life forms within the Nation ... and are an integral part of the natural system of the public lands**”. These are the words decreed by the 92nd Congress and signed into law by the President of the United States of America.

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