To: <u>ksteele@sagebrusheco.nv.gov</u>

Dear Sagebrush Ecosystem Council Members,

The misinformation campaign by the BLM and cattle industry concerning America's wild horses and burros has been very destructive to their welfare!

The Bureau of Land Management (BLM) claims wild horses trample bushes and vegetation. Cows do, not wild horses who are very gentle on the land. Please see below link to the Meet America television series, which clearly shows wild horses aren't a problem to vegetation.

The roundups of wild horses that BLM does are very cruel. If citizens performed such cruelty, they would be prosecuted. The videos detailing the cruelty don't lie. Please see for yourself the cruelty at <u>The Strongest Horses on Earth with Lorna Moffat</u>



Wild horses, wildlife, and our wild lands are what makes our nation great!

The Wild Free Roaming Horses and Burros Act requires the BLM to protect them.

In the act, it's stated wild horses and burros are the priority, that they get first choice of the HA. Unfortunately, the BLM has taken away millions of acres of these areas without citizen approval. The agency has continued to do so despite numerous lawsuits filed at much expense! It's important to listen to the people and groups advocating for the wild horses. Remember, the act gives them principle presence on our public lands. So please do the sacred duty of protecting these magnificent creatures.

It would be a great tragedy if only a sterilized variety of wild horses remained. They need to be kept in their natural state. It is the cattle who are overpopulated--they cause tremendous damage to the land.

I try to make a difference by not eating meat. I pray you will try to make a difference in saving our wild horses.

Wild horses are part of the beauty of our nation.

The WFRHBA states: "(c) "range" means the amount of land necessary to sustain an existing herd or herds of wild free-roaming horses and burros, which does notexceed their known territorial limits, and which is devoted principally but not necessarily exclusively to their welfare in keeping with the multiple-use management concept for the public lands;'

So you see the language gives them the principle presence.

Unfortunately, cattle and livestock are given priority over wild horses. Doing so is a violation of the WFRHBA act. Please see:

https://www.google.com/search?q=the+white+papers/wild+horses&ie=UTF-8&oe=UTF-8&hl=en-us&client=safariwild

Americans overwhelmingly cherish wild equines and want to see them protected!

As a result of the BLM's ongoing mass roundup strategy, there are about 60,000 animals in holding, a big increase from last year when there were 53,000. This number will keep increasing if the BLM continues to rely on the failed system of mass removals.

Unfortunately, the holding facilities, like the roundups, are harmful to the health and well-being of these animals.

Also troubling is that large-scale removals from the range actually lead to increased population growth rates through compensatory reproduction.

compensatory reproduction.

BLM's records concerning the number of wild horses gathered and in holding are contradictory.

WildHorseFreedom Federation examined BLMs records of the numbers of horses gathered and held. This organization went to

the holding areas and pastures and performed their own counts. The horses just weren't there. See the following link: <u>https://www.google.com/search?q=the+white+papers/wild+horses&ie=UTF-8&hl=en-us&client=safariwild</u>

BLM has received 11 million dollars to sterilize wild horses and burros with infertility drugs. Sterilizing the mares disrupts the family bands as the mares seek other stallions to impregnate them. The head stallion is faced with competition from other stallions.

The WFRHBA states wild horses are to be treated with minimal management practices yet sterilization is very invasive and therefore against the act.

Continuing to put huge numbers of wild horses and burros into holding pens is unsustainable, and not good for the horses. This practice needs to stop!

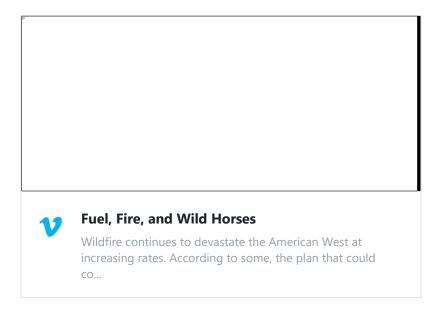
It would be better if the BLM were to do more humane and cost-effective options that fulfill the agency's statutory mandate under the Wild Free-Roaming Horses and Burros Act by keeping these federally protected species in their natural habitats.

By relocating horses from overabundant Herd Management Areas (HMAs) to HMAs and Herd Areas with low or nonexistent populations, horses can remain on the range--this will help BLM's budget. It's very expensive for the BLM to continue the practices it currently does.

Back in 1971 52 million acres were allocated to the wild horses and burros. The law said they would be the principle presence on these lands. BLM has illegally removed the horses from all but 22 million acres of land.

Wild horses are good for the land. They reseed what they eat. They reduce fire dangers . They have been seen to eat dry twigs

and branches. Watch them do so at: Fuel, Fire, and Wild Horses



The horses reduce global warming by eating vegetation.

Wild horses have the extraordinary ability to find and dig up springs for themselves and other animals in times of drought.

They are our heritage. They built this Nation with us.

We owe them a lot for the service they render. Our children have the right to see them run wild and free.

Is your organization for wild horses and burros or against them? I haven't seen a governing body that wants to

protect these icons on our public lands.

The myths and misinformation perpetuated by the cattle industry continue to spread lies about their native history. The plentiful cattle are as non native as any species can be. See: Centuries-old bones of horses unearthed in Carlsbad



Please stop the execution of these wonderful animals that have helped us so much throughout our history.

The Heber Herd is a good example. The herd hasn't overpopulated despite US Forest Service claiming there's an overpopulation problem. The Forest Service tried to remove them on those grounds, which are verifiably untrue.

The <u>ISPMB.org</u> sued the Forest Service to stop a roundup of this herd in 2006 and that herd has the same numbers it did back then and has not expanded. Why is that? We are calling for a study of the Heber Herd because they are the only herd that hasn't been rounded up. When a species is rounded up, its population is diminished, and the species goes into survival mode and propagates.

The HEBER Herd in Arizona has remained at a low population level despite predictions by the US Forest Service that the herd would expand from 400 to 4,600 by 2022.

Wild horses are needed to reduce fuel on public lands. Wild horses are a lot less expensive than mechanical means to do so. Please see: <u>Wild Horses & BLM Lies. Mustangs</u> are environmental healers of public land (Meet America TV Series)



52 million acres were allocated to wild horses and burros--they are legally the principle presence on these lands. BLM has illegally removed all but 22 million acres.

Please represent American citizens who overwhelmingly wantto keep wild horses and burros part of our natural heritage.

Sincerely,

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