

February 19, 2024

Dear Sagebrush Ecosystem Program

My name is Laura Fuson. I am a Carson City resident and a Wild Horse Advocate. I am here today to respond to the Nov 16 letter addressed to BLM National Director Tracy Stone Manning from the Coalition for Healthy NV Lands, Wildlife & Free Roaming Horses.

The coalition is asking for more financial support to gather and remove **more** wild horses from Nevada public lands. I understand there are currently 20,000 horses nation wide that BLM has already slated for round ups for 2024. Is the coalition requesting more round-ups specific to Nevada HMA's? Is there REALLY a CRISIS of over population? The removal of East Pershing just last month netted 2,692 wild horses. Is removal the ONLY solution? Or is it a crisis of open public land management?

I think there is a better way! I propose the range lands are more equally shared with cattle and wildlife. That one animal doesn't trump the other! That grazing lands are specifically outlined "wild horses' jurisdictions" to be shared with other wild life...not cattle. The open public land- BLM managed land --can divide this land in sections, accommodating all. Just as the Wild Horse & Burro Act 1971 laid out! Why are we even discussing this AGAIN? There are already parameters in place and they are ignored! I do not see the equality, currently in the Herd Management Areas. I want the wild horses to have their land too. **Surely there is a Better way!**

I agree the long term cost of the "*holding pastures*" is outrageous! ---these are actually pens- **nothing** pastoral about them! As a taxpayer I do not want to support these holding pens, and would rather see multiple allotted 1000-2000 acre horse sanctuaries. With a little ingenuity, natural barriers and fencing could maintain and truly provide a healthy existence for these equines. Let's put more thought into this issue before we summon more money and pen up 20,000 more.

There is a better way!

Nevada is known as a wild horse state—just like Montana and Wyoming. Let's build on this and take it to a whole new level! **And profit from it!** Imagine horse sanctuaries *for the public* --by the public. Instead of holding pens-- these wild horse sanctuaries could promote tourism, education, open land recreation, even housing and employment! These could be destination vacation spots for people from all over the world to "get back to nature". With the money saved in helicopter round ups, pens, feeding, maintenance etc etc --surely we can find a way to capitalize on horse sanctuaries! Can we carve out allotted acreage from the current Herd Management Areas and develop such communities? I think so...and I think we can sell a ton of burgers and steaks and make the cattle industry happy too!

I can not condone one more round up, one more horse jumping the trap, one more roughed up horse because it was fighting for it's life or it's mare or foal, **There is a Better way.** There is an opportunity here, an opportunity to re-appoint our resources, instead of asking for more money and kicking the can down the road, penning up more innocent horses. **It's NOT the solution!**

You people are brilliant, resourceful and connected. Please change this tide. Let's apply resources in a whole new direction and make a win win for all!

Sincerely,

Laura Fuson

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