

Good Afternoon Kathleen,

I am providing input regarding the meeting of the Sagebrush Ecosystem Council scheduled for tomorrow. I was just alerted about the meeting so I am rushing my comments. I'll be brief.

I am opposed to the Coalition's letter urging an unjustified and unnecessary 75% elimination of Nevada's remaining wild horses and burros. The real threats to healthy sagebrush ecosystems are not wild horses or burros but are non native domestic livestock owned by a minority portion of the public. Oil and mining also damage the land and pollute water sources and riparian areas. Off road vehicles do not stay on trails and cause damage to sagebrush, native plant species and wildlife, including sage grouse.

Those who support this unnecessary and unsustainable reduction of wild horses and burros in Nevada have been attempting this effort for decades. This is not about the health of the ecosystem, the environment or the wild horses and burros or other wildlife, this is about the exploitation of those public resources for self interested special interests. I know this because I've seen the destruction these activities have done to ecosystems where no wild horses or wild burros exist. It's been witnessed for decades and has increased in scale. When wild horses and burros are removed, there is no measurable benefit to the ecosystem because the invasive domestic livestock remain.

If the council were serious about protecting and restoring the sagebrush ecosystem in Nevada they would not be focused on wild horses and burros. They would consider the destructive role played by the livestock, oil, mining and OHV use. The scapegoating of a native wildlife species as the cause of the problems when they actually contribute to the health of the ecosystem is nothing new. It takes the focus off the actual culprits, which is also nothing new. It's not going to solve anything for the public.

This is a blatant attempt, yet again, to let the status quo continue to benefit the ranchers and industry. The public who own the public lands and the resources within them are being ripped off. We are watching the wild horses and burros lose the small area's allotted for them through Federal law. The Wild Free Roaming Horses and Burros Act is being ignored, the law is clear.

I'm an American citizen who lives in the Sierra's. My parents live in Nevada and agree that the "cows are the problem." I have adopted wild horses and burros from Nevada. My savings are gone because the government likes to rid the land of these wild horses and burros and only benefit their favorite "stakeholders".

I hope you take my comments into serious consideration and do not support this unnecessary and irresponsible nonsense.

If you have any questions please feel free to contact me via email.

Thank you for your consideration,  
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