

Sagebrush Ecosystem Council

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February 29, 2024

The Honorable Tracy Stone-Manning
Director
Bureau of Land Management
1849 C Street, N.W.
Washington, DC 20240

Dear Director Stone Manning:

The Nevada Sagebrush Ecosystem Council fully supports the letter written by the Coalition for Healthy Nevada Lands urging the Bureau of Land Management to take immediate and effective action to address the wild horse and burro over-population crisis in Nevada and across the West. As members of the conservation community, we understand the importance of managing our public lands in a sustainable and responsible manner for the benefit of both wildlife and ecosystems.

The over-population of wild horses and burros on Nevada's public lands is not only a threat to native wildlife and plant species, but also to the health and resiliency of our fragile rangeland ecosystems. Inadequate gathering efforts have resulted in exponential population growth and negative impacts on the environment. It is imperative that BLM prioritize Nevada for additional gathers in order to achieve appropriate management levels and protect the health of our public lands.

We support the call for additional resources and full management authorities from Congress in the FY2024 and FY2025 appropriations to fulfill BLM's obligations under the Wild and Free-Roaming Horses and Burros Act of 1971. We also recognize the need for a long-term funding plan to achieve appropriate management levels within a five-year timeframe. We urge BLM to take all necessary actions to meet the obligations of the WHB Act, prioritizing Nevada for those actions.

Sincerely,

Chris MacKenzie
Chairman
Sagebrush Ecosystem Council