



Coalition For Healthy Nevada Lands, Wildlife and Free-Roaming Horses

November 16, 2023

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

Re: Additional BLM Funding and Actions for Nevada Wild Horse and Burro Gathers in 2024

Dear Director Stone Manning:

The undersigned members of Nevada's wildlife and natural resource conservation communities urge BLM to expand efforts to effectively address the wild horse and burro over-population (WHB) crisis on our public lands. **We request you take all actions necessary to meet the obligations of the Wild and Free-Roaming Horses and Burros Act of 1971 (WHB Act) and that Nevada (NV) be prioritized for those actions.**

Prioritizing gathering and removing horses is the only feasible way to achieve AML and save our arid public lands. Inadequate gathers explode populations and future budgets. Until at or below AML, fertility control is not effective in management nor cost. **Once at AML, fertility control will allow limited gathers and adoptions to sustain cost effective management, while over time retiring costly long term holding pastures. We must spend what it takes now to follow the law and reduce costs in the long term.**

To address this West-wide crisis **we support BLM efforts to obtain additional resources and full management authorities from Congress** in the FY2024 and FY2025 appropriations toward fulfilling BLM's obligation under the WHB Act. Yet recognizing that annual appropriations are not sufficient to bring success, **we support a long term step by step funding plan to achieve AML in 5 years.**

Nowhere is this crisis more manifest than in our state of Nevada (NV). In March, NV had 60% of the horses and burros and 65% of the 56,000 excess. Due to insufficient gathering, WHB will likely increase another 10,000 by end of this year – erasing most progress since the 2019 Path Forward — increasing negative havoc on our native wildlife and fragile, arid rangeland ecosystems. **We respectfully request that you prioritize Nevada for additional gathers.**

We are unwilling to lose wildlife - from squirrels to mule deer, native plants, pollinators - and resiliency of our ecosystems. Current WHB management actions are inadequate to restore health to our native wildlife, our rangelands, and the horses and burros themselves. Our public lands and wildlife need BLM to **take all actions necessary to meet the obligations of the '71 WHB Act, prioritizing NV in those actions.**

Yours in Conservation,

[Coalition for Healthy Nevada Lands and signatories]