

Save Our Wild Horses

# Save Our Wild Horses Lobby Day - April 26th, 2023

We are making the following requests to you, our U.S. Senators and Representatives:

- We request you support an audit of the Bureau of Land Management (BLM) Wild Horse & Burro Program (WHB). BLM spent \$138,462,000 in FY2022 with \$7,096,600 being paid to just 5 ranching contractors. On-range management could reduce FY costs to \$853,100 \$910,000/yr. There is a lack of transparency in all aspects of the BLM WHB program, including wild horse & burro numbers and conditions in holding facilities, which need to be made accessible to the public at all times since the public is paying for the facilities to operate.
- We request that wild horses regain the protections they had when the Wild Free-Roaming Horses & Burros Act (WFRHB) was signed in 1971. Far too many of the protections the wild horses had have been eroded with changes slipped into other bills without due process. Please support repealing those changes.
- We request you look at current science and acknowledge that wild horses, as a native species, are capable of regenerating damaged land and are a keystone species for rewilding. Rewilding with horses has been successful in over 20 countries around the world. The U.S. is behind in rewilding efforts.
- We request you support the requirement by law for each and every Herd Management Area (HMA) to have and implement new or updated Herd Management Area Plans (HMAPs). Horses need to be considered principally on the limited land set aside for them. This was the foundation of the original WFRHB Act of 1971. We also request you ask the BLM to return wild horses and burros back to the over 26.9 million acres that have been taken from them.
- We want science-based appropriate management levels numbers (AML). AMLs are random (per an Academy of Science Report) and leave nearly all herds of horses and burros genetically unviable. Many herds number as low as 50 on 50,000 or more acres. Will you support having genetically viable herds on our public lands? Twelve herd areas are under an AML of just 10 wild horses or burros, and 53 herd areas are under 50 wild horses or burros.
- We request your support requiring that the comprehensive animal handling policy (CAWP) be improved based on best practices. There are chronic and continual violations by the BLM. The current practices would be considered abuse if used on domestic equines. In FY 2022, 244 wild horses and burros were killed as a direct result of the roundups. Hundreds more died in short and long-term holding in 2022 due to improper handling and inhumane conditions.
- Stop the BLM Adoption Incentive Program; paying someone \$1000 in taxpayer dollars to take an animal is absurd. In addition, the sale of horses in the BLM Sale Authority Program should only go to established, respected trainers or established sanctuaries. Selling a wild horse or burro with no protections, and for just \$25, is a fast track to slaughter.

Thank you.

# Costs of Range Management vs Wild Horse Roundups

Cost of Range Management: Annual Cost: \$853,100 - \$910,000

- Water projects
  - Improvements to existing waterholes and natural sources
  - Solar wells & pumps \$2599 \$50,000 one time cost
  - o Troughs: \$500 \$10,000
  - Not all HMA's need wells, natural water sources are sufficient, supplemental
- · Darting with PZP Native
  - Cost per dart less than \$30/yr, two initial doses, then a dose every 12 months for mares of breeding age / \$600k/yr based on current wild population
  - Darted by volunteers or through organizations on the range \$0
- Range Recovery
  - Cheatgrass: remove livestock to stop continued degradation and spread of cheatgrass
  - Plant native grasses and plants to regenerate the riparian buffers and the range \$250,000/yr
  - Wild horses & burros, native wildlife, will help to spread native grass seeds \$0
  - Volunteers in cooperation with the BLM to remove invasive plants and plant native flora \$0
- Range cleanup volunteer days \$0
- Reintroduce predators and allow native wildlife to return
- Reintroduce wild horses and burros to former herd management areas
- Retire grazing allotments
  - significant benefit to climate change and cost saving measure for American taxpayers
- All of these solutions would mean 99% fewer annual roundups

Cost of Wild Horse Roundups FY 2022: \$138,462,000

FY2022				
Budget Category	Dollars (in millions)	% of Expenditures		
Appropriations	\$137.093	n/a		
Total Expenditures*	\$138.462	n/a		
Off-Range Holding Costs	\$83.438	60%		
Gathers and Removals	\$12.186	9%		
Adoptions	\$12.308	9%		
Other Activities (monitoring, etc.)	\$30.530	22%		

Source: https://www.blm. gov/programs/wild-horse-and-burro/about-the -program/program-data

Out of the FY2022 BLM budget, American taxpayers funded \$7,096,600 to just 5 ranching contractors for helicopter and bait & trap roundups (not including short- or long-term holding costs)

Sources: https://www.blm.

gov/programs/wild-horse-and-burro/about-the-program/program-d ata; westernwatershedsproject.org; peer.org; https://www.sccpzp.org/pzp/faq/; http://www.waterforwildlife.org/projects/colorado/; https://link.springer.com/article/10.1007/s00267-022-01633-8

# Early dispersal of domestic horses into the Great Plains and northern Rockies

The spread of domestic horses and their integration into Indigenous societies contributed to profound social and ecological transformations across western North America. However, the mechanisms and timing of this transition are poorly understood. **Horses and other members of the genus Equus originated in North America** (1, 2). Horses and equids formed an important component of human lifeways across the continent during the final Pleistocene (3–5), which is still encoded in some Indigenous oral traditions, including those of the Lakota (6). Although Western scholars commonly consider horses to have disappeared at lower latitudes by the early Holocene, environmental DNA suggests their presence in arctic zones as late as 5000 to 6000 years before the present (7, 8). Few archaeozoological studies have carefully addressed their possible persistence at lower latitudes during the Holocene.

Viking colonizers brought horses as far as Greenland during the 10th to 14th centuries CE (9) and settled along areas of the Newfoundland coast during the 11th century CE (10). There is, however, no direct evidence that Viking horses reached settlements on the mainland (11). Instead, most western scholars accept that horses were first reintroduced into the Americas by Spanish settlers in the late 15th century CE, reaching the mainland in the early 16th century CE with the Spanish colonization of Mexico (12). During the 17th to 19th centuries CE, colonizing European powers, including the British, Spanish, and French (13, 14), and possibly Russian and Chinese merchants (15) imported considerable numbers of horses into western North America.

Whereas horses would generally be categorized as domestic commodities, Indigenous peoples often maintain different relationships with them. Lakota peoples attribute to horses a nationhood status equal to their own. The Lakota—horse relationship is thus one of great reverence, deeply embedded in their identity, spirituality, science, and cosmogony. Lakota peoples do not have concepts for "wild" and "domesticated." In fact, Sungwakan—"the Horse Nation"—was neither controlled behind fences nor forced into breeding. Rather, the Lakota peoples strove to cultivate their environment and adapt their lifeways to ensure that Sungwakan could live aligned with its natural systems. Within this nation-to-nation alliance, the horse enhanced the abilities of the Lakota with regard to hunting, mobility, healing, and more (16). Therefore, for the Lakota peoples, saying "our horse" never reflects ownership but rather responsibility for a sacred relative.

European colonization entirely altered Indigenous social dynamics, hierarchy, and lifeways, introducing profound changes to subsistence modes, movement, and warfare (17). Many Indigenous peoples within the Great Plains and American Southwest developed horse-based pastoral or hunting economies and expanded transcontinental networks of raiding and exchange. Some became militarily dominant polities that maintained autonomy and sovereignty into the end of the 19th century CE, with many maintaining this sovereignty today (18, 19).

Historical models for the post-Columbian North American dispersal of horses and their integration into Indigenous cultures are almost exclusively derived from textual sources written by European observers dating largely to the 18th and 19th centuries CE [e.g., (20, 21)]. These sources depict horses first spreading in appreciable numbers north from what is today the American Southwest after the Pueblo Revolt of 1680 CE, when Spanish settlers were temporarily expelled from much of New Mexico (22). Given that most of the continent north of New Mexico was terra incognita to European chroniclers, natural and cultural landscapes remained largely uncharacterized until the early 19th century CE (23). Furthermore, these Euro-American historic records are often rife with inaccuracies and strong anti-Indigenous biases, depreciating the fundamental relationship between Indigenous peoples and horses (24).

Despite representing a major source for understanding the timing and ways in which horses were managed, ridden, and integrated into early societies, archaeological remains of domestic horses from Indigenous contexts are also overlooked (24). In this study, we extensively surveyed existing archaeological collections to identify early historic horse specimens with potential for reconstructing early human—horse relationships across the American Southwest and Great Plains (Fig. 1). Together, DNA, archaeozoological, and stable isotope data support the introduction of Spanish-sourced domestic horses into Indigenous societies across the plains before the first half of the 17th century CE.

# Making a horse culture

Horses evolved in North America and dispersed to Eurasia across the Bering Land Bridge. They continued to evolve and were domesticated in Eurasia, but, as far as we know, they became extinct in North America by the late Pleistocene and were then reintroduced by European colonizers. Taylor *et al.* looked at the genetics of horses across the Old and New Worlds and studied archaeological samples. They found no evidence for direct Pleistocene ancestry of North American horses, but they did find that horses of European descent had been integrated into indigenous cultures across western North America long before the arrival of Europeans in that region. —SNV

# This new article was published in Science, Volume 379, Issue 6639 in March 2023

To continue reading the article, please visit:

https://www.science.org/doi/epdf/10.1126/science.adc9691?fbclid=lwAR0c1g7D8zeoAKaZS0r0BJm2t72X0nxU5O-qP44BhKfgol3piKOzCzE47X0

When the Wild and Free Roaming Horses & Burros Act of 1971 was signed by President Nixon, there were 329 protected wild horse and burro herd areas located on 53.8 million acres in the West. Here is a list of those herd areas - the red lines indicate which herd areas have been removed by the Bureau of Land Management since 1971, resulting in less than 170 herds remaining on less than 26.9 million acres in 2023

Adobe Town • Alamo • Akali Spring Creek • Amargosa Valley • Antelope • Antelope Hills • Antelope Valley • <del>Applewhite</del> • <del>Arapaho Creek</del> • Ash Meadows • Atturbury • Augusta Mountains • Austin • Bald Mountain • Bartons Gulch • Basque • Beattys Butte • Bible Springs • Big Sandy • Bitner • Black Mountain (ID) ● Black Mountains (AZ) ● Black Rock E&W ● Blawn Wash ● Bloody Run ● Blue Nose Peak Blue Wing Mountains
 Bolten
 Bonanza
 Bordo Atravesado
 Buck Bald
 Buckhorn
 Buffalo Hills • Bullfrog • Burbank • Butler Basin • Butte • Calico Mountains • Callaghan • Canyon Lands • Carracas Mesa-Rosa • Carter • Carter Reservoir • Cave Valley • Cedar Mountain • Cerbat • Challis • Chemhuevi Cherry Creek • Chicago Valley • Chloride Canyon • Chocolate Mule Mountains • Choke Cherry • Cibola-Trigo • Cima Dome • Clan Alpine • Clark Mountain • Clover Creek • Clover Mountains • Cold Springs • Conant Creek • Confusion • Conger • Continental Peak • Coppersmith • Cottonwood Basin • Cottonwood Creek • Coyote Canyon • Coyote Lake-Alvord Tule Springs • Crooks Mountain • Cumberland • Cyclone Rim • Dean Mountain • Deer Creek • Deer Lodge Canyon • Delamar • Desatoya • Devils Fence • Devils Garden • Diamond • Diamond Craters • Diamond Hills • Diamond Kobeh Valley Dishpan Butte
 Divide Basin
 Dobbin Summit
 Dogskin Mountains
 Doty Mountain Cherokee Douglas Mountain • Dry Lake • Eagle • East Beaver • East Kiger • East Wagontire • Eldorado • El Dorado Mtns • Ervin Ridge • Eugene Mountains • Fifteenmile • Fish Creek • Fish Lake Valley • Flanigan Fort Sage • Fortification • Foster Gulch/Dry Creek • Four Mile (ID) • Four Mile (UT) • Fox Hog • Fox Lake • Frisco • <del>Gabbs Valley Rang</del>e • <del>Garden Creek</del> • Garfield Flat • <del>Godfrey Hills</del> • <del>Gold Creek</del> • Golden Gate • Gold Butte • Gold Mountain • Goldfield • Goshute • Granite Peak • Granite Providence -Mountains • Granite Range • Grass Valley • Green Mountain • Hardtrigger • Harveys Fear • Harquahala • Havasu • Heber • Hickison • Hickison Summit • High Rock • Highland Peak • Horse Springs • Hot Creek • Hot Springs Mountains • Humboldt • Ione • Jackies Butte • Jackson Mountains • Jakes Wash • Johnnie • Kamma Mountains • King Top • Kobeh Valley • Kramer • Krumm Hills • <del>La Barge</del> • Lahontan • Lake Pleasant • <del>Lakeridge</del> • <del>Last Chance</del> • <del>Lava Beds</del> • Lee Flat • Liggett Table • Little Book Cliffs • Little Colorado • Little Fish Lake • Little Harquahala Mountains • Little Humboldt • Little Mountain • Little Owyhee • Lost Creek • Marietta • Massacre Lakes • Maverick Medicine • McCullough Peaks • McGee Mountain • Meadow Valley Mountains • Middle Fork • Miller Flat • Montgomery Pass • Monte Cristo • Montezuma Peak • Moody Wagon Box Mesa • Morgan Creek • Morger • Moriah • Mormon Mountains • Morongo • Mount Airy • Mount Stirling • Muddy Creek • Muddy Mountains • Murderers Creek • Murphys Wash • Muskrat Basin • Naturita Ridge • Nevada Wild Horse Range • New Pass Ravenswood • New Ravendale • New Years Lake • Nightingale Mountains • North Granger • North Monitor • North Piceance • North Shoshone • North Simpson Park • North Stillwater • Nut Mountain • Onaqui • Osgood Mountain • Oquirrh Mountain • Owyhee • Palmetto • Pah Rah Mountain • Painted Rock • Paisley Desert • Palm Canyon • Palomino Butttes • Panamint • Pancake • Patterson Eagle • Paymaster • Picacho • Piceance-East Douglas Creek • Pilot Mountain • Pine Nut Mountains • Piute Mountain • Piper Mountain • Plute Mountain • Pokegama • Potholes • Powell Mountain • Pryor Mountain • Punche Valley • Pueblo Lone Mountain • Quinn • Railroad Pass • Range Creek • Rattlesnake • Red Rock (NV) • Red Rock Lakes • Reveille • Rhodes Canyon • Riddle Mountain • Roberts Mountain • Rock Creek (NV) • Rock Creek (WY) • Rocky Hills • Robbers Roost • Rocky Hills • Round Mountain • Salt Wells Creek • Sands Basin • Sand Creek East • Sand Creek West • Sand Draw • Sand Spring Last Chance • Sand Springs (OR) • Sand Springs West (NV) • Sand Wash Basin • Saulsbury • Saylor Creek • Seaman Ridge • Schell Creek • Second Flat • Selenite Range • Seven Mile • Seven Troughs • Shawave Mountains • S<del>heep Mountain</del> • Silver King • Silver Peak • Sinbad • Slate Creek • Slate Range • Slumbering Hills • Smyth Creek • Snowstorm Mountain • Sonoma Range • South Catlow • South Desert Figure Four • South Granger • South Paneake • South Shoshone • South Steens • South Stillwater • Spring Creek Basin • Spruce Pequop • Stinkingwater • Stockade • Stone Cabin • Stonewall • Sulpher • Swasey • Sweetwater • Tassi Gold Butte • Three Fingers • Tilly Creek • Tobin Range • <del>Triangle</del> • <del>Trinity Range</del> • Triple B • <del>Truckee Range</del> • <del>Tule Ridge Mahogany Flat</del> • Twin Peaks • Upper Hot Creek • Wagontire • Wall Canyon • Warm Springs (NV) • Warm Springs (OR) • Warm Springs Canyon • Wassuk • Waucoba-Hunter • <del>West Crane Creek</del> • <del>West Douglas Creek</del> • Wheeler Pass • Whistler Mountain • White Mountain • White River • Willow Creek • Willowridge • Winter Ridge • Woods Hackberry • Zimmerman Springs





## Help End the Brutal Extermination of America's Wild Horses and Burros

by: <u>Linda Greaves</u> recipient: US Congress

84,923 SUPPORTERS

100,000 GOAL



Congress must act now to stop wild horses and burros from becoming extinct!

When Congress passed the Wild Free-Roaming Horse and Burro Act of 1971 they did so unanimously and stated that these majestic animals needed Congressional protection because they were "fast disappearing from the American scene." At that time the number of wild horses was down to approximately 60,000 from over 2,000,000 Today there are less than 64,000.

Wild horse & burro herd areas are being zeroed out rapidly and now number around 154 out of the original 329. Land designated as herd areas by the law have been reduced more than 50%. Between November 1, 2021 and October 31, 2022, nearly 20,000 wild horses and burros were removed from the range by brutal helicopter chase and bait traps. 244 wild horses and burros were killed due to broken necks, backs and legs, blindness, lameness, and exhaustion from being chased. Those who survived now live in long-term holding pens and a few are shipped all over the country to adoption events.

The Adoption Incentive Program (AIP) was created in 2019 by the Bureau of Land Management (BLM) as a means to 'adopt' out wild horses which pay the adopter \$1000. This tremendously faulty program has resulted in thousands of wild horses being adopted by unscrupulous people who take advantage just to make money on the backs of American taxpayers and the wild horses themselves. Congress must step in and demand an end to the AIP immediately

The number one reason wild horses and burros are removed from the range? To benefit agribusiness, mining, and oil companies. Once the wild horses are removed, ranchers are allowed to have even more livestock (cattle and sheep) graze on our public lands at a heavy subsidized cost to the American taxpayer. Livestock and mining on our public lands are the number one reason for range degradation and loss of wildlife.

The BLM conducts most roundups based on AML's ('Appropriate Management Levels') which are not supported by scientific information. These made-up numbers must be refigured based on true science and proper range management plans. If the BLM continues to round up wild horses and burros based on these made-up numbers, none of our herds will be genetically viable in a few years time.

Congress must put a stop to the roundups until the BLM agrees to recalculate the AML for each individual herd area based on science.

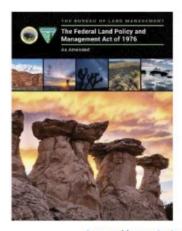
There is new DNA science to prove wild horses are native to North America and, in fact, are listed as native in the state of New Mexico. But the BLM continues to scapegoat them by claiming they are feral. Wild horses are a keystone species that greatly benefit the ecosystem and are being used all around the world to regenerate habitats. We need Congress to acknowledge this science and to look at the benefits we could gain by allowing wild horses to help regenerate our public lands.

# Multiple Use or Multiple Abuse?

What calculating ROI shows about the removals of wild horses on public lands — and the government agency and livestock industry behind them.

The Federal Land Policy and Management Act of 1976, as amended, is the Bureau of Land Management's "organic act" that establishes the agency's multiple-use and sustained yield mandate to serve present and future generations.

#### From §1702(c)



(c) The term "multiple use" means the management of the public lands and their various resource values so that they are utilized in the combination that will best meet the present and future needs of the American people; making the most judicious use of the land for some or all of these resources or related services over areas large enough to provide sufficient latitude for periodic adjustments in use to conform to changing needs and conditions; the use of some land for less than all of the resources; a combination of balanced and diverse resource uses that takes into account the long-term needs of future generations for renewable and nonrenewable resources, including, but not limited to, recreation, range, timber, minerals, watershed, wildlife and fish, and natural scenic, scientific and historical values; and harmonious and coordinated management of the various resources without permanent impairment of the productivity of the land and the quality of the environment with consideration being given to the relative values of the resources and not necessarily to the combination of uses that will give the greatest economic return or the greatest unit output.

https://uscode.house.gov/view.xhtml?path=/prelim@title43/chapter35&edition=prelim





Updated May 16, 2022

# **Bureau of Land Management: FY2022 Appropriations**

The Bureau of Land Management (BLM), in the Department of the Interior (DOI), manages 244 million acres of federal land, nearly all in the West. Under its multiple-use mission, BLM manages lands for diverse purposes, including livestock grazing energy development, recreation, and conservation. The agency also administers onshore federal energy and mineral resources generally.

Management of Lands and Resources. The largest account—Management of Lands and Resources—funds diverse programs including energy and minerals, wild horses and burros, rangelands, wildlife and fisheries facility maintenance, law enforcement, and recreation. The FY2022 appropriations law included \$1,257.6 million for this account—6% over FY2021. The President's request, House, and SCMD supported higher increases for FY2022.

https://bit.ly/3N2Z0ds

# Does this best meet the present and future needs of the American people?

#### -99.17% ROI

The BLM spent \$12 million to round up 20,193 wild horses in 2022, and \$27 million to care for them, allowing a potential increase of 242,316 AUMS (valued at \$327k) for cattle and sheep ranchers.





### -98.80% ROI

The BLM spent \$83 million in holding costs for 61,826 wild horses in 2022, allowing a potential increase of 741,912 AUMs (valued at \$1 million) for cattle and sheep ranchers





### -99.17% ROI

The BLM will spend \$21 million to round up 35,191 wild horses (to get down to "AML"), and another \$47 million to care for them annually, allowing a potential increase of 422,292 AUMs (valued at \$570k) for cattle and sheep ranchers.





#### **BLM Livestock Grazing Program Data**

# In Fiscal Year 2015, the BLM was allocated \$79 million for its rangeland management program. Of that figure, the agency spent \$36.2 million, or 46 percent, on livestock grazing administration. The other funds covered such activities as weed management, rangeland monitoring, planning, water development, vegetation restoration, and habitat improvement [in 2015] the BLM collected \$14.5 million in grazing fees. The receipts from these annual fees, in accordance with regislative requirements, are shared with state and local governments. The federal grazing fee is adjusted annually and is calculated by using a

The federal grazing fee is adjusted annually and is calculated by using a formula originally set by Congress in the Public Rangelands improvement Act of 1978. Under this formula, the grazing fee cannot fall below \$1.35 per animal unit month (AUM) also, any fee increase or decrease cannot exceed 25 percent of the previous year's level. An AUM is the amount of forage needed to sustain one cow and her calf, one horse, or five sheep or goats for a month. The grazing fee for 2019 is \$1.35 per AUM, as compared to the 2018 fee of \$1.41 per AUM.

The grazing fee applies to federal lands in 16 Western states on public lands managed by the BLM and the U.S. Forest Service.

https://www.blm.gov/programs/naturalresources/rangelands-and-grazing/livestockgrazing

#### **BLM Wild Horses and Burros Program Data**

FY2022	
Budget Category Do	llars (in millions
Appropriations	\$137.093
Total Expenditures*	\$138.462
Off-Range Holding Costs	\$83.438
Gathers and Removals	\$12.186
Adoptions	\$12.308
Other Activities (monitoring, etc	) \$30.530

Fiscal Year 2022

Nationwide population estimate: 82,384 as of March 1, 2022

Download the full 2022 population estimate data set

Total removed: 20,193

PROGRAM EXPENDITURES

Total placed into private care (adoptions, sales, transfers): 7,793
Total fertility control treatments: 1,622
Total expenditures \$138.462 million

Facility Type	Horses	Burros	Total
Off-Range Corrals	18,632	2,781	21,413
Off-Range Pastures	39,215	0	39,215
Public Off-Range Pastures	1,198	0	1,198
Total Off-Range Population	59,045	2,781	61,826

https://www.blm.gov/programs/wild-horse-and-burro/about-the-program/program-data