

## About the Commission

The Commission is comprised of five members appointed by Nevada's Governor. There is one wild horse advocate, one rancher, and three members of the general public who are not engaged in ranching or farming and have not been previously engaged in efforts to protect wild horses. Each Commissioner serves a term of three years, and may be re-appointed. The Commission was created by an act of the Nevada Legislature in 1985. It was made possible by the bequest of Leo Heil to the state to preserve and protect wild horses.



Photo courtesy Mary Sue Kunz.

COMMISSION FOR THE PRESERVATION OF

## *Wild Horses*

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Photo courtesy of Paul White

**EXHIBIT F-3 - LANDS**  
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**STATE OF NEVADA**



# Nevada's Wild Horses

**T**HE STATE OF NEVADA has about 50 percent of the nation's wild horses. Nevada is the only state to have a state agency dedicated solely to wild horses.

Within the state are 102 Bureau of Land Management Herd Management Areas. A Herd Management Area is federal public land where wild horses and burros are managed by the BLM to ensure a healthy range for wildlife, horses, ranching, and recreational uses. The U.S. Forest Service also manages wild horses in 16 regions in Nevada. A territory is the same as a Herd Management Area.

Most of Nevada's wild horses are found in the central and northern parts of the state. In 2007, the BLM estimated Nevada had approximately 12,000 wild horses and burros roaming public lands.



Photo courtesy Mary Sue Kunz.

## What We Do

The Commission resides under the umbrella of the Department of Conservation and Natural Resources. Our mission is to preserve and protect Nevada's wild horses. Our responsibilities are to:

- Promote the management and protection of wild horses.
- Act as a liaison between the state, the general public, and interested organizations.
- Advise the governor on the status of wild horses in the state and recommend legislation that is consistent with federal law.
- Develop, identify, initiate, manage, and coordinate projects to study, preserve and manage wild horses and their habitat.
- Monitor activities of state and federal agencies, including the military, that affect wild horses.
- Participate in programs designed to encourage the protection and preservation of wild horses.
- Develop and manage a plan to educate and inform the public and report progress biennially to the legislature.

As part of fulfilling these responsibilities, the Commission co-funded the Mustang Heritage Foundation in cooperation with the Bureau of Land Management. The Mustang Heritage Foundation was developed to showcase and promote the BLM's wild horse and burro adoption program.

The Commission also started the wild horse gentling program with the Nevada Department of Agriculture and the Nevada Department of Corrections. Located at the Warm Spring Correctional Center in Carson City, inmates gentle and train wild horses and offer them for adoption to the public. This is a positive program, as there is a high demand for trained horses, and the inmates learn many skills that they can take with them upon release. In some cases inmates learn skills that will provide them with gainful employment.

The Commission is the original founder of the National Wild Horse and Burro Show and the Western States Wild Horse and Burro Expo held annually in Reno.

