

The following document is a compilation of written comments submitted by members of the public who did not speak during the July 12, 2024, meeting of the Subcommittee on Public Lands of the Joint Interim Standing Committee on Natural Resources. These comments are posted individually on the Legislature's website for this meeting and can be found on the Committee's [meeting page](#).

From: [REDACTED]
To: [Committee on Public Lands](#)
Subject: My Public Comment for Meeting Friday July 12, 2024
Date: Thursday, July 11, 2024 8:11:19 AM

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10 July 2024

PLEASE INCLUDE THIS LETTER FOR PUBLIC COMMENT IN AGENDA ITEM IV C

I am a resident of Nevada and a tax paying citizen of this great country. I am but one voice. But in the last few months thousands of voices have joined together and letters have poured into the various public meetings in Nevada concerning the wild horse roundups. Hundreds of these letters have been sent to the Honorable Tracy Stone-Manning, Director of BLM and to Ms. Deb Haaland, Secretary of the U.S. Department of the Interior to voice the public's opposition to what is taking place on our public lands.

No matter what spin is placed on the need to round up these herds of wild horses and burros, when hundreds of thousands of cattle and sheep graze on the public lands subsidized by tax payers' money, there are **TWO** issues that almost every citizen would agree on.

1. The abject CRUELTY taking place right in our State.

Last year hundreds of horses died during the brutal roundups. When temperatures hit triple digits, helicopters began the roundups. Horses broke their backs and legs, some died from heat exhaustion, while foals barely a few months old could not keep up with their mothers in the infernal heat. The plight of these poor animals and the cruelty involved during these roundups travelled around the world. This year we are doing the same thing again. What on earth are we teaching our children? How are we projecting our image to the rest of the world when a major part of our economy is based on tourism? Are our leaders so inept that they cannot find a solution? Meeting after meeting, special interest groups seem to control the agenda on our public lands, and the public is largely ignored.

2. The exorbitant COST to American taxpayers.

Government contract records show that there is an incredibly lucrative business out there on the range. Wild horse roundups have become a self-perpetuating enterprise. Millions and millions of dollars paid to service contractors, millions and millions of dollars going to livestock operators to roundup, remove and feed these wild horses. The price difference between grazing a subsidized cow on public land versus removing a wild horse to feed in feed lots for the rest of its life is astounding! While this may provide very lucrative jobs for a relatively few,

this is in essence subsidization by taxpayer's money on public lands.

These **TWO** issues, **CRUELTY** and **COST** are universal to our voters and fundamental to our democracy. I am consequently ashamed to say I live in Nevada when we seem to have so little regard for the life, death and suffering of these animals who share the land with us and are protected by an Act of Congress as representing “**living symbols of the historic and pioneer spirit of the West, and that they contribute to the DIVERSITY of life forms within the Nation ... and are an integral part of the natural system of the public lands**”.

Anamaria Damas

Carson City, NV

From: [Craig Downer](#)
To: [Committee on Public Lands](#)
Cc: [CRAIG DOWNER](#)
Subject: In support of much fairer and more human policies for Nevada's last remaining wild horses and burros
Date: Wednesday, July 10, 2024 3:42:24 PM

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July 10, 2024

Attention: Lisa Creamer, Senior Research Policy Assistant, Research Division, 401 South Carson Street, Carson City, NV 89701-4747. Tel. 775-684-6825

Please include my letter below as Public Comment in the Minutes of the meeting of the Subcommittee on Public Lands of the Joint Interim Standing Committee on Natural Resources as concerns Agenda Item IV C. This is to take place this coming Friday, July 12, 2024, at 1 P.M. at the Eureka Opera House, 31 South Main Street, Eureka, Nevada. Please deliver my comment to all members of the subcommittee.

As a native Nevadan and wildlife ecologist with a lifelong interest in our state's wild horses and burros, I urge you to heed the desire of the majority of Nevadans when deciding upon policies concerning their treatment and provision in our state, both on the federal BLM and USFS lands as well as on the state and other jurisdiction lands. Currently there is far too much clamoring demand for the elimination of Nevada's moderate remaining numbers of wild horses and burros. This is jeopardizing their genetic viability and giving over their legal habitats to exploitive interests. This policy is in extreme disaccord with the true spirit and intent of the Wild Free-Roaming Horses and Burros Act, which intent is supported by the majority of Nevadans.

Having been involved in this issue since a boy and having worked with Velma Bronn Johnston in implementing the true intent of the WFHBA (Wild Free-Roaming Horses and Burros Act) during the 1970s and for many years after her passing, I have born witness to an insidious and dishonest attempt to undermine the true intent of this unanimously passed law. The Constitution of Nevada plainly gives priority to the federal laws, which include, of course, the WFHBA. Nevada came in on the side of the Union during the Civil War period and we usually respect the federal laws; this one is for the General Public and is an outstanding Quality of Life issue. It is highly presumptuous to ignore both the true intent of the law and the will of the majority of Nevadans/Americans by siding with the traditional enemies of the wild horses and burros, chiefly the public lands cattle and sheep ranchers, whom the WFHBA was meant to protect these wild equids against! The latter vested interests are supporting what is referred to as "The Path Forward" concerning America's wild horses and burros, but is in fact a dreadful path backward that panders to the traditional enemies of the wild horses. I call it a wipeout plan!

In my lifetime of studies both in the field and involving extensive scholarly investigation, I have come to learn that the horse family has its evolutionary cradle in North America including Nevada, and that includes close ancestors of both the horse and burro species. Their restoration here, in fact, enhances the ecosystem because it

reanimates many mutualistically beneficial symbioses, or ways of living together.

In my studies I have learned how, because of the equids' different cecal-fermenting, monogastric digestive system, as well as different hooves, teeth, more nomadic lifestyles especially of horses, and these equids' ability to handle coarser drier vegetation and still sustain good health, the naturally living horses and burros provide a wonderful balance to the several ruminant-digesting, cloven-hoofed herbivores such as cattle, sheep and deer that are mainly supported by the government and populate the state of Nevada, as elsewhere in the West. We should not ignore the fact that horses and burros provide a much-needed balance to the cloven-hoofed, rumen-fermenting, multi-stomach herbivores such as cattle, sheep and deer. We should not ignore the fact that these equids are supreme gardeners who enrich soils with greater humus and make these soils more moisture-retentive and that they more greatly disperse the seeds of a greater variety of plants, including many deeply rooted natives such as bunchgrasses. And they also more greatly sequester Carbon, as my studies have proven.

I am here providing you with a link to a thorough-going article containing references to several of my and others studies. I ask that you respectfully and in an open-minded manner pay attention to what I and others have presented. It is my sincere hope that doing so will result in your taking steps to remedy the alarming bias and inequitable valuing of the various species and public interests that exist in Nevada. Some relative minority of we Nevadans must stop wrongly targeting the highly evolved, ecologically suited and beneficial, naturally living horses and burros within our borders. They have legal rights to be fairly treated as the principal presences and resource recipients within their legal Herd Areas/Herd Management Areas on BLM and Territories on US Forest Service lands. These animals are returning to their truer place in our world and in their "cradle of evolution" and we owe them a major debit of gratitude for all their indispensable generations of service to humanity. They are greatly appreciated by the clear-minded people of Nevada, America, and the Earth, as attest thousands of books, articles, studies, films, court cases, art works, etc., over the years. In addition to their being returned natives in North America, they are "living historical treasures" that are appreciated by millions of people and should be appreciated as a great ecotourist draw. People who are unclouded by exploitative interests recognize their intrinsic harmony, both ecological and aesthetic as well as the moral issue that is at stake here and is, for certain, a major one.

Here is the link to my article whose valid points and observations have been recognized by many people including those deeply educated on the issue of Nevada's wild horses and burros:

<https://thewildhorseconspiracy.org/establishment-disinformation-mustangs/>

Among other points, this greatly corroborates the vital role that wild horses and burros play in creating desert oases and in mitigating and even preventing catastrophic wildfires and in general combatting Global Heating. I need not remind you how very critical such contributions are today--but these are being wantonly and thoughtlessly lost by the extreme and excessive roundups currently ongoing!

Please feel free to contact me for further elucidation and opportunities for collaboration.

Stay cool and wishing you well in achieving sound, fair, and well-informed decisions for the wonderful State of Nevada.

Sincerely,

Craig C. Downer, Wildlife Ecologist
Wild Horse and Burro Fund / Andean Tapir Fund
P.O. Box 456
Minden, NV 89423
775-901-2094

July 12, 2024

Subcommittee on Public Lands

Addressing Item IV B #12

Dear Eureka County Board of Commissioners

I am opposed to your "Path Forward For Management of BLM's Wild Horses & Burros".

Requesting more funding from the government is not the answer. There is a better way!

AML's need to be re-analyzed and reconfigured. When acreage and horse populations are eschewed to benefit only specific groups -- mismanagement is the culprit. Not the horses living in balance with nature. Breaking herds down to minuscule numbers reeks havoc and herds' health and vitality implode.

This is a plan to "manage for extinction"!!!! It is unnecessarily biased on incorrect horse population counts based on acreage. This is a direct fallacy that needs to be re-examined and revised!

Please take the time to consider other options and not jump on BLM's band wagon!!!

Sincerely,
Laura Fuson
Carson City NV

From: [Rae Hanna](#)
To: [Committee on Public Lands](#)
Subject: Nevada Legislature Subcommittee on Public Lands - Meeting July 12, 2024 at 1:00pm
Date: Thursday, July 11, 2024 4:51:11 PM

You don't often get email from [REDACTED] [Learn why this is important](#)

Please include in Public Comments - Agenda Item IV B #12 County Presentations on Issues Related to Public Lands and Natural Resources (Eureka County)

In the spring of 2013 the National Academy of Sciences issued a report, Using Science to Improve the BLM Wild Horse and Burro Program: A Way Forward. Since that time the recommendations of that publication have been largely ignored. A notable exception is the cooperation between the Carson City District Office of the Bureau of Land Management and the Wild Horse Preservation League based out of Dayton, Nevada. The horse population of the Pine Nut Horse Management Area has now been scientifically documented and is tracked. Birth control efforts using PZP are now meeting designated goals. The establishment of such a program has not been easy, but has cost the government very little. Several wild horse advocacy groups do assist with volunteers, some funding and expertise.

Roundups and holding facilities on the other hand are extremely expensive and are an increasing burden unattractive to the taxpayer. Imagine if that funding could be diverted to longer-lasting humane management practices.

Present day free roaming horses may not represent an exact genetic model of those last uniquely created in North America - those that lived with native plants and animals that survive here to this day. They are closely related in form, behavior, and dietary habits - so close that it is likely that if those animals still existed and were bred with the present horses they would create viable offspring. Nevada today has a delicate desert environment, and yet we don't question its carrying capacity for humans who by far represent the greatest challenge to healthy Nevada lands . . . or introduced domestic cattle and sheep, who vastly outnumber horses.

Respectfully,

Rae Hanna, President

Wild Horse Preservation League

PO Box 1958

Dayton, NV 89403

[REDACTED]

**“The Greatness of a Nation Can Be Judged By The Way It’s Animals Are Treated”
Mahatma Gandhi**

July 11, 2024

To: Subcommittee For Public Lands in Nevada

Attention: Lisa Creamer, Senior Research Policy Assistant, Research Division, 401
South Carson Street, Carson City, NV 89701-4747. Tel. 775-684-6825

Please include my letter below as Public Comment in the Minutes of the meeting of the Subcommittee on Public Lands of the Joint Interim Standing Committee on Natural Resources as concerns Agenda Item IV C. This is to take place this coming Friday, July 12, 2024, at 1 P.M. at the Eureka Opera House, 31 South Main Street, Eureka, Nevada. Please deliver my comment to all members of the subcommittee.

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Many years ago when departing from your flight at Reno Tahoe Intl Airport and walking into “Reno” you passed a wall of wild horses, depicting our state as “Wild and Free”. At least since then wild horses have been used to **Attract Tourism in Nevada** and have come to everyone’s attention. Thousands of photographers/videographers+ take pictures of them – make calendars, sell pictures, enter contests, post videos, art shows, write books, billboards (all the way to New York City), make movies with them and about them. Magazines. Wild horse and burro groups conduct tours, hold classes and events, provide information. Tourist Bureaus and Agencies promote, honor and celebrate our wild horses – selling notebooks, cards, t-shirts, mural on the building, a sculpture, and other wild horse murals painted on the side of the buildings all over Carson City other Nevada towns+. Horses brought us here. **Enjoyment** of a Fabulous Majestic Animal that’s served human beings and made things possible.

People literally come from all over the United States, and even the World, to see our wild horses. Most of our new residents love them. People talk about them on the internet. Visitors ask where they can see them, and I recently saw a post by someone who said they drove out and parked and watched them and it gave them such a sense of peace. We learn about their “families” and how they live and take care of each other. A fine example of love for our children and grandchildren. Yes, we’ve grown to love them – and feel like they’re a part of our “wild” life in Nevada. Our wild horses (and burros) are **“Mental Health”** and **Quality of Life** for many and it’s been clouded with brutal roundups and not everyone is turning a blind eye anymore. The Nevada wild horses

were in over 100 publications, in the last year, Around the World during the roundups and what many of us consider **THE True “Crisis”**. During one of those brutal roundups last year someone on-line typed “that shouldn’t be shown. It’s too horrible for kids to see”. **Providing bad examples for our children and the rest of the world. A total contrast to what kids could be seeing as a learning tool – learning to share, being kind to animals, how to live with and respect wild animals, being interested in the land we pay taxes on and belongs to all of us.** I attend wild horse rallies and I can tell you assuredly, by the number of people that wave and honk their horns in support of the wild horses and burros, compared to those that don’t, that if it was to come to a Vote of Nevada taxpayers, the wild horses would stay.

Not even commenting on “if” roundups are truly needed, because those that think they are carry them out in brutal incomprehensible ways. WE have to pay “ranchers” helicopter hunters millions of dollars to carry out these terroristic roundups – injuring, killing, breaking necks, breaking legs, shooting, roundups in 100 degree weather when a mare has just given birth and the foal is newborn - families – chased by helicopters and so many deaths in the roundups and after the roundups Horses dying of illness in pens we can’t see because they’re hidden. TOO many injuries, separations and deaths. We used to see similar abuse on tv happening in 3rd world countries. And what’s the result? More terror for the horses, now having taxpayers fund them for the rest of their lives in a dirt pen, or worse.

I don’t believe wild horses and burros are taking anything from squirrels, mule deer (I’ve seen them grazing with wild horses – the same wild horses that allow the cattle water before they have any), and pollinators and are much better for the land than the cattle that completely outnumber them. “500,000 cattle = 50,000 horses!!!” Many of the “reports” designed to get rid of the wild horses and burros use outdated pictures, pictures that don’t prove when or what season it was, showing a poor dead pony but not mentioning what happens to them in the roundups, lands that have been trampled, but no proof a wild horse did it. These types of “reports” are full of untruths prepared for private interest coalitions and groups, government entities that support ranchers, hunters, mining and no one else, and NOT FOR all the citizens and taxpayers of Nevada and our country. **And, for instance, Jake Tibbits is part of the Coalition for Healthy Nevada Lands and Wild Horses (designed to make people feel like they really care about the horses), which is a self interest group designed and planned to get rid the wild horses and burros through reports riddled with inaccurate information, in order to fulfill their wants, but also represents a government agency as a “Natural Resource Manager”. How is this possible? Something I believe to be a huge problem because Jake Tibbits’ personal desires don’t equal the desires of the rest of us but he “represents” the county’s residents?**

As per a report I recently read, when the Wild and Free Roaming Horse & Burro Act of 1971 was signed there were **329 wild horse and burro herds located on 53.8 million acres** of our Public and Forest Lands. Since 1971, herd areas have been removed resulting in **less than 177 wild horse and burro herds remaining in 2022 on less than 26.9 million acres** of our Public and Forest Lands. The wild horses and burros are being decimated for money interests and what a tragedy for our future generations. And to learn how it was done, a failure of ethical and moral values.

Our country is full of lies and untruths right now and this is one of them and I'm 100% completely entirely against any more roundups brought on by people that only care about money.

WHAT WE WANT TO SEE – NOT SEPARATED FAMILIES, HORSES WITH BROKEN LEGS, BROKEN NECKS. WHEN DID PEOPLE STOP CARING ABOUT LIFE AND INSTEAD DECIDE TO TERRORIZE AND TORTURE?

AS IS EVIDENCE BY THE SIGNATURE I TOOK THIS PICTURE!!!!!!!



Keep Nevada Wild and Free!!!

Taunee Jensen

5th Generation Nevadan – Taxpaying Citizen

cc: Eureka County Commissioners
Lander County Commissioners

From: Robyn Orloff [REDACTED]
Sent: Monday, July 15, 2024 4:50 PM
To: Committee on Public Lands <Lands@lcb.state.nv.us>
Cc: Robyn Orloff [REDACTED]
Subject: Public comment for Public Lands meeting 7/12/2024 (disclaimer added for photos!).....

Please admit this comment to today's Agenda for the Public Lands Meeting, Eureka 1 pm. And include in the minutes of the meeting.

With this public comment, I am protesting the ongoing Wild Horse and Burro Roundups in your Counties — especially in this heat — and your requests for more appropriations for more round ups.

I came out West years ago, like so many people before me, and fell in love with the high desert of Nevada. Endless land fringed with rugged mountains presented me with unlimited opportunity to explore. Now, I call this majestic place home.

We Nevadans pride ourselves on our Western themes: painted, sculpted and displayed all over town and in gift shops - the Pony Express, the Wells Fargo Stagecoaches, the colorful cowboys and cowgirls, the rodeos, the miners. All these historic and pioneering symbols we love have but one thing in common – the horse (and the burro of course).

Last July, however, the wild horse roundups began in earnest. I read and watched as herds of horses, some with foals desperately trying to keep up, were being chased by helicopters in 100-degree weather. Some poor horses dropped down dead from excessive heat and exhaustion, dehydration. Other horses broke their backs and legs, hips and shoulders, as they tried to escape.... or were mis-handled. Foals who could not keep up with their mothers because they were too young were left behind. We are not talking about a few horses either, each day dozens more horses died! And so it was that I read of these stories about my home in utter disbelief!

I thought surely it could not be so, we are after all a nation with animal cruelty prevention laws. Surely it could not be happening in a State that in many respects owes its very existence to the horse. And, as I read on, I came across countless domestic and international publications about the cruelty that was being perpetrated against these wild horses in Nevada. From the western most state of Hawaii (Honolulu Star) to our east coast (NBC News), ALL the major news outlets were carrying this story. And portrayed in NYC's Times Square, for all - visiting from all over the world - to see.

No longer are Nevadans being seen, around our own nation and the world, as proud upstanding citizens honoring our wild horses -- but as people who are in fact brutalizing them. I keep holding on to the belief that this somehow is an aberration, but I am repeatedly shocked yet again. And again. Same roundups now again— in this heat. Instead of correcting this awful practice it is continuing unabated, and escalating.

I come as a Nevadan, an ashamed Nevadan, urging that this horse brutality be stopped, NOW. I urge you all to implement sound management plans — for the horse and burro herds and their ecosystems — with comparative studies of the impacts of all the other uses on our Nevada land.

YES, I support Cattle Grazing, Mining, Hunting, Solar, Wind, OHVing, Hiking/Camping, Military, AND YES the Wild Horses and Burros. We in Nevada have millions of acres of public land. Isn't it enough to host all our uses? How do we integrate all these special interest groups and uses, into a productive working system here? Why are you targeting and vilifying the horses, as the sole destroyers of our ecosystem? Read some scientific studies and documentation, by Ecologists outside your own circles. One such is Mr Craig Downer, who has also written in public comment for this meeting. Read about how the Wild Horses and Burros BENEFIT their ecosystem. Do comparative studies and management plans and assess the relative damages of EACH use on our Nevada Land. Then truly manage — all uses and needs, fairly. Restore/rehabilitate/rewild/rotate the land. Rather than brutally and inhumanely gather and pen these magnificent animals — or worse yet, ship them to slaughter or cull them (per your own values/standards). Even some of the Advisory to Wildlife Commissioners, have urged more conscientious MANAGEMENT vs roundups, in their meetings this past year.

And let's talk WATER: another cruelty and inhumanity IMO -- preventing the wild horses/burros from accessing water sources collected on public land (supported by all of us taxpayers, not just the horse haters) i.e. one example I came upon recently was the guzzler put in by the Bighorn Sheep advocates, at Goblin Knobs, May 2024. I had seen 'Goblin Knobs' on the atlas and chose it for a dirt bike ride/and hiking exploration — sounded like an interesting geological feature. Rode the road to the Goblin Knobs — and discovered trucks parked, and the Guzzler and interpretative sign (just installed). Met the Bighorn Sheep representative later, exiting the site. (While we were riding, his (NDOW?) helicopter was overhead for several hours — scoping for horses, watching us? Putting in another guzzler?) The Goblin Knob water source is fenced, and I was told by this fellow, quite assertively and hatefully, that "NO the horses can't access it and NO we don't care if they need water — the horses are aggressive with the sheep and prevent sheep from accessing water sources"I asked why they couldn't at least pipe some water downhill, to provide a water source separate from the Bighorn (who had their water safeguarded by the fencing). NO, the Bighorn Sheep advocates didn't want the horses to have any water: expressed to me — clear, plain and simple. This was repeated to me by the NDOW fellow I called in Tonopah (because he diverted out an accessory road before I could talk with him). And repeated again by a BLM Enforcement Officer in Caliente. So the guzzlers can be put on public land (thank you to the Bighorn Sheep Volunteers' labor and materials, impressive project). BUT, the hatred and lack of concern for the welfare of the horses is absolutely transparent (BLM, NDOW, Bighorn Sheep representatives) — to the public/all who will listen.

It is appalling and frightening to me that my tax money is paying the salaries of this NDOW and BLM person and the ground that the guzzlers are constructed on — and paying the helicopter pilots and gauchos running down the horses. I protest — and hope you all can find another way.

Below photos taken by me, Robyn Orloff, on April 17, 2024 at 11:33:12 AM — (Excuse my error in above letter, date given as May) - on my iPhone.



Stephanie Hull

Dedicated to the Enhancement of Nevada Wildlife



**Constructed by Fraternity of the Desert Bighorn
and Nevada Department of Wildlife**

For the benefit of Desert Bighorn

The below photo was taken by me, Robyn Orloff, on April 17, 2024 at 11:35:19 AM



The below photo was taken by me, Robyn Orloff, on April 17, 2024 at 11:35:48 AM



The below photo was taken by me, Robyn Orloff, on April 17, 2024 at 11:40:34 AM



The below photo was taken by me on April 17, 2024 at 12:33:26 PM



Thank you all for listening,

Robyn Orloff

Carson City, NV

From: [Tracy Wilson](#)
To: [Committee on Public Lands](#)
Subject: Public Comment 7/12/24
Date: Friday, July 12, 2024 1:43:18 PM

You don't often get email from twilson@americanwildhorse.org. [Learn why this is important](#)

Please accept this comment for the Subcommittee on Public Lands 7/12/24 meeting, in regards to item IV. My name is Tracy Wilson, and I am the Nevada State Director for American Wild Horse Conservation, or AWHC.

AWHC is the nation's leading wild horse conservation organization and operates humane wild horse management and habitat conservation programs in Nevada. I am commenting today on the ask by Eureka and Lander Counties to request increased federal funding for increased wild horse roundups. A reminder to all, federal funding IS taxpayer dollars. The BLM's plan, the Path Forward, requires mass gathers of horses from public lands, where tens of thousands of animals would need to be placed in long-term holding.

BLM estimates that it costs up to \$48,000 to keep a horse in long-term holding over its lifetime, and at this moment there are already over 60,000 horses in long-term holding. Supporting mass gatherings of tens of thousands of animals is **fiscally irresponsible** and could create a financial disaster for the agency in the event of a recession. Additionally, utilizing roundups as the only form of 'management' could be halted due to lack of funding, further perpetuating the continuous cycle of ineffective management. Instead, requesting that the BLM implement robust fertility control NOW not only prevents population growth, but ensures infrastructure to manage these herds in the long term.

Last year BLM delivered **720** fertility control treatments, despite Congressional direction to spend up to \$11million dollars on fertility control, essentially spitting on a fire. On the Virginia Range a team of volunteers delivered **1178** treatments on one herd in the same time period. And in Utah, we are delivering treatments where it has previously been said that it can't be done. It **can** be done, and there **IS** a better way. Fertility control treatment is 96.8% less expensive than removing that same animal from its habitat and caring for it in long-term holding; five years of fertility treatment is estimated to cost only \$1326 per horse compared with almost \$50,000 to keep it in long-term holding. Taxpayers would potentially be spared hundreds of millions of dollars over the next five years if the agency focused on fertility control over removals of wild horses.

Concern has been raised over environmental degradation due to high horse density. According to Public Employees for Environmental Responsibility, or PEER, quote "Livestock grazing, mostly by cattle, is the single largest use of publicly owned lands in the West. The BLM issues 18,000 grazing permits, covering 21,000 allotments across 155 million acres in 13 states. Though the department doesn't release a head count, it has been

estimated that those permits represent about 1.5 million heads of cattle.” According to the National Cattlemen’s Beef Association in 2021 there were 93.6 million cattle and calves in the US. If we take the estimate of 1.5 million head of cattle on public lands, that equals less than 2% of US cattle.

In terms of land health, only 108 million of 155 million acres available to livestock has ever been assessed for current Land Health Standards. Of the acres that have been assessed, 50% have failed to meet Land Health Standards, with 72% of failures attributed to livestock grazing. If this was truly about taking the biggest steps towards healthy rangelands, why are we singling out wild horses with such fervor, when there is clearly a larger systematic problem affecting millions more acres?

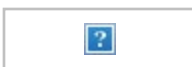
Of the only 69.3 million acres that were originally designated for wild horses in the early 1970s, which was intended by law for these horses, more than 61% of that land has been taken away from them. Of that original 69 million, 42 million acres are managed as Herd Areas (HAs), which are ‘*managed for zero horses*’, leaving only 26 million acres ‘available’ for horses today. All the while, cattle grazing is currently being allowed on 155 million acres of public lands.

We all want healthy wild horses and other wildlife on healthy lands.

Roundups kick the can down the road. Fertility control puts a plan in place that manages numbers for the long term - humanely, on the range where they deserve to live out their lives.

And unless we start addressing the root cause of environmental degradation – specifically livestock grazing on our public lands, until we stop ignoring the BLM’s own disclosures about failing Land Health Standards, millions of taxpayer dollars will continue to be wasted on programs aimed at scapegoating wild horses.

Thank you,



Tracy Wilson

Nevada State Director
American Wild Horse Conservation



E: twilson@americanwildhorse.org



Carson City, NV 89701

americanwildhorse.org

