
SENATE JOINT RESOLUTION NO. 3—
COMMITTEE ON NATURAL RESOURCES

FEBRUARY 25, 2021

Referred to Committee on Natural Resources

SUMMARY—Urges Congress to provide funding to reduce the
wild horse and burro populations to appropriate
management levels. (BDR R-465)

FISCAL NOTE: Effect on Local Government: No.
Effect on the State: No.

~

EXPLANATION – Matter in *bolded italics* is new; matter between brackets _____ [omitted material]
is material to be omitted.

SENATE JOINT RESOLUTION—Urging Congress to provide
funding to reduce the wild horse and burro populations to
appropriate management levels.

1 WHEREAS, The Wild Free-Roaming Horses and Burros Act of
2 1971, as amended, ensured free-roaming horses and burros existing
3 on lands managed by the Bureau of Land Management or U.S.
4 Forest Service in 1971 would be protected and managed as valued
5 components of our public lands; and

6 WHEREAS, Their range was to be sufficient to sustain herds,
7 while ensuring a thriving natural ecological balance with wildlife,
8 livestock and other public lands uses in accordance with the
9 Multiple-Use Sustained-Yield Act of 1960; and

10 WHEREAS, The Wild Free-Roaming Horses and Burros Act of
11 1971 directed the Bureau of Land Management and the U.S. Forest
12 Service to determine, in consultation with wildlife agencies, the
13 appropriate management level of free-roaming horses and burros to
14 retain a thriving natural ecological balance of the habitat, forage and
15 water needs of wildlife, livestock and free-roaming horses and
16 burros through the assessment of plant and riparian sustainability;
17 and

18 WHEREAS, Once over the appropriate management level,
19 numbers of free-roaming horses and burros were defined as excess

20 to the carrying capacity of the land; and

43 that are above the appropriate — management level of the last
44 4
45 decades have, in many areas, impacted ecosystem health as well as
habitat, forage and water resources, which imperils the health and

1 well-being of wildlife, livestock, vegetation, and
free-roaming

2 horses and burros themselves; and

3 WHEREAS, Inadequate, short-term congressional Bureau of Land
4 Management budget allocations have prevented the effective
5 removal of excess free-roaming horses and burros required for
6 healthy ecosystems and resulted in additional problems including
7 insufficient pasture and holding facilities, an absence of logistically
8 effective long-term fertility inhibitors, and populations above the
9 appropriate management level that are growing exponentially; and

10 WHEREAS, In 2019, wildlife and livestock welfare organizations
11 including the Humane Society of the United States and the
12 American Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals
13 collaboratively crafted a plan, “The Path Forward for Management
14 of BLM’s Wild Horses & Burros,” proposing a pathway to reduce
15 free-roaming horse and burro populations to the appropriate
16 management level using non-lethal methods; and

17 WHEREAS, The underpinnings of this plan became part of the
18 Bureau of Land Management’s 2020 “Report to Congress: An
19 Analysis of Achieving a Sustainable Wild Horse & Burro Program,”
20 which hinged on requiring sufficient short and longer-term funding
21 for success; and

22 WHEREAS, The work of “Wild Horse Annie” (Velma Johnston),
23 which assisted in the passage of the Wild and Free-Roaming Wild
24 Horse and Burro Act of 1971, is failing to achieve the goals which
25 were made in good faith of ensuring a place for free-roaming horses
26 and burros on public lands, while retaining a thriving natural
27 ecological balance; and

28 WHEREAS, This thriving natural ecological balance needs to be
29 restored as quickly as possible; now, therefore, be it

30 RESOLVED BY THE SENATE AND ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF
31 NEVADA, JOINTLY, That the members of the 81st Session of the
32 Nevada Legislature support the humane and science-based
management of Nevada’s wild free-roaming horse and burro
populations Bureau of Land Management’s 2020

~~33 Report to Congress urging sufficient short term funding for
34 immediate effectiveness and longer term funding for sustained
35 efficacy and overall success, apportioned according to free-roaming
36 horses and burros numbers in each state; and be it further~~

37 RESOLVED, That given the impacts of excess free-roaming
38 horses and burros on our fragile Great Basin and Mojave
39 ecosystems, the members of the 81st Session of the Nevada
40 Legislature support reducing excess free-roaming horses and burros

41 to achieve the appropriate management level, using
non-lethal
42 means and prioritizing humane fertility control, as recommended by
the National Academy of Sciences within 6 years to protect and
43 restore the health and viability
of our public lands and habitats for wildlife, free-roaming horses
44 and burros and other uses into the future; and be it further

