



## Reforms to BLM Wild Horse and Burro Program

- **Act Now to Control Reproduction.** Immediate and Increased implementation of available, humane fertility control vaccines. Use available technology now while researching longer acting vaccines and solutions.
- **Initiate BLM Culture Shift** in favor of on-the-range management solutions.
  - A. **Smarter Spending.** Redirect funds from capture, removal and long-term holding to less expensive on-the-range alternatives that involve participation from grazing permit holders and ranchers.
  - B. **Adjust AMLs.** Increase Appropriate Management Levels (AML) or manage to higher AMLs in healthy habitats. AML targets should be habitat and climate-based and we should decrease livestock AML in wild horse areas, where appropriate.
  - C. **Reduce livestock grazing levels** in HMAs<sup>1</sup> and offer incentives to grazing permit holders (permanent or temporary adjustments to climate changes), including compensation for non-use of AUMs, allotment trades, and/or grazing permit buyouts.
  - D. **Authorize Gathers for Fertility Control.** Current policy only allows gathers for removals – we must use gathers (bait trapping, helicopter roundups, etc) for fertility control delivery and return to range.
- **Eco-Sanctuaries.** Partner with qualified members of the public and 501c3 organizations to redirect funds from long term holding to Eco-Sanctuaries that will prioritize:
  - A. Gathering horses in their natural social bachelor and harem bands
  - B. Relocating intact social bands to eco-sanctuaries
  - C. Managing population in sanctuaries:

- a. Using fertility control to maintain population growth while preserving natural behaviors, lifestyle and genetic viability
  - b. Vasectomy- stallions can maintain hormone driven behaviors and movement without reproducing
  - c. Gelding- stallions lose hormone driven movement and behaviors
- **No Sterilization.** Follow NAS recommendations and reject plans to pursue sterilization of wild horses such as IUDs, spaying of mares, and surgical or chemical castration of wild horses on the range.
- **Tie Removals to Adoptions.** BLM should never remove more horses from the range than it can annually adopt out.
- **Rescind the Burns Rider.** The Burns Rider forces sale of wild horses to the highest bidder and was added to the Appropriations Act of 2005 without public or Congressional debate. The Rider overturned key sections of the 1971 Wild Free Roaming Horse and Burro Act that protected wild horses and burros from slaughter and allowed for their sale “without restriction.”
- **Return to Freedom.** Repatriate horses in holding to zeroed out Herd Management Areas that still contain viable wild horse habitat. (BLM Wild Horse and Burro Advisory Board has a working group exploring this alternative).

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<sup>i</sup> pursuant to 43 CFR 4710.5