



Save Our Wild Horses

Save Our Wild Horses Congressional Asks

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.