

A Unified Call for an Immediate Moratorium on Wild Horse & Burro Roundups

And a humane, fiscally responsible plan for preserving and protecting the iconic, free-roaming wild horses and burros of the American West.

President Obama,
Members of Congress
and the
Department of the Interior:

We, the undersigned, request major changes to the Bureau of Land Management's (BLM) Wild Horse and Burro program. This must begin with an immediate moratorium on all roundups.

While we agree that the program is in dire need of reform, and we applaud your Administration's commitment to avoid

BLM's suggested mass-killing of horses, the plan outlined in October by Interior Secretary Ken Salazar raises numerous concerns.

We believe that workable solutions to create a healthy "multiple use" of public rangelands, protect the ecological balance of all wildlife, and preserve America's wild horses and burros in their rightful, legally protected home can be achieved.

We are calling on the Obama Administration to reform the BLM's Wild Horse and Burro Management Program.

Read the entire letter and view the list of signatories at:
www.equinewelfarealliance.org

Most of us think "BLM" when we think "wild horse." But there are other agencies that manage horses on public land.

Horses are under the jurisdiction of BLM, USFS, USFWS, NPS, and state Dept. of Agriculture, (Nevada).

Passing laws that have clear designations and protocol, with any real national standard, is a challenge.

The BLM is the largest of the agencies that manage our horses. However, this agency has a long track record of misrepresentation.

Currently there is a United Advocate call that has been sent to our President and Congress that has yet to receive an answer.

The Moratorium call is basically a plea to halt potential irreversible harm being done to herds on our public land as more complete data is gathered prior to any decision process.

Several court cases are currently proceeding.

New legislation awaits a vote.

The ROAM act (S.1579) may be the next step Congress takes to tighten up the laws.

In its present form, the ROAM Act restores prohibitions on the conversion of these protected animals for commercial products (slaughter) and it requires a number of potentially positive changes in the way free-roaming horses and burros are managed on Federal public lands. But there are a few issues with current language that may create "loopholes" with future management protocol.



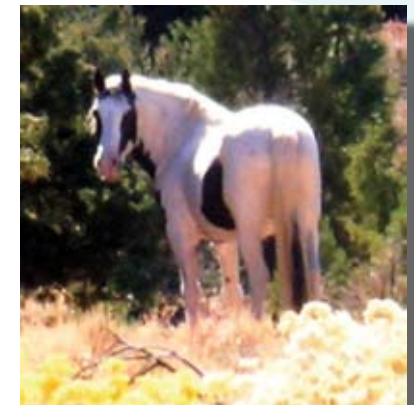
Calico Complex, 2009
photo: Craig Downer

In 1971 Congress and the American people spoke loud and clear when the Wild Horse and Burro Act passed without a single dissenting vote.

But the implementation of the Act was undercut by stealth riders and special interests.

It is time for America to speak up again for this symbol of our Freedom.

Learn more at:
www.equinewelfarealliance.org



Virginia Range Horse, 2009
photo: Laura Leigh