The Western Heritage

Wild Horse and Burro Facts
- BLM rangelands can support <27,000 horses and burros.
- There are currently >72,000 horses and burros on BLM ranges.
- Horse populations double every 4 years.
- There are >46,000 horses and burros in BLM off-range holding facilities.
- Taxpayers pay about $50 million per year to care for horses and burros in holding.

The western rangelands have been utilized by ranchers, farmers, hunters, and recreationists for centuries. Wild horse and burro overabundance has depleted resources that are valuable to the western way of life.

Ranching & the Western Tradition
The BLM manages 155 million acres of public land for livestock grazing and administers 18,000 permits and leases to ranchers to graze on public lands.

Cattle ranching is a living tradition in the American West and one that exemplifies the identity of the region. For modern-day Western communities, well-managed rangelands provide economic opportunity, support habitat for wildlife, and preserve an iconic way of life.

Multiple-Use Rangelands
Under the Federal Land Policy and Management Act of 1976, BLM must manage public lands for multiple-use and sustained yield. Having horse and burro populations in excess of Appropriate Management Levels (AML) leads to deterioration of the range, which negatively affects other rangeland uses, like ranching and recreation.
Recreation & the Economy

Ecosystem degradation caused by horses and burros **negatively impacts** the economic value of public lands for rural western towns.

**$646 billion** is contributed in direct spending in the American West by outdoor recreationists, including hikers, hunters and bird-watchers for equipment and travel. This spending generates approximately **$39.7 billion** in state and local tax revenue.

Recreation & the Economy

Federal agencies **cannot control when and where wild horses and burros graze**. Therefore, it is important that the BLM and Forest Service **manage populations** to a level where the range is able to support them.

Outdoor recreation supports over **6.1 million jobs** and funds **$110.3 billion** in salaries/wages.