



## NATIONAL HORSE & BURRO RANGELAND MANAGEMENT COALITION

*Advocating for commonsense, ecologically-sound approaches to managing horses and burros  
to promote healthy wildlife and rangelands for future generations*

# THE WESTERN HERITAGE

### Wild Horse and Burro Facts

- BLM rangelands can support <27,000 horses and burros.
- There are currently >67,000 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, the BLM must manage public lands for multiple-use, including public recreation, wildlife conservation, and cattle grazing. The excess horse and burro populations above **Appropriate Management Levels (AML)** upsets the balance provided by multiple-use land management and required by federal law.



## 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.



Hikers explore the rangelands in Nevada.

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

**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.**

(See generally) United States Department of the Interior. Bureau of Land Management. Wild Horse and Burro Quick Facts. 2016. <[http://www.blm.gov/wo/st/en/prog/whbprogram/history\\_and\\_facts/quick\\_facts.html](http://www.blm.gov/wo/st/en/prog/whbprogram/history_and_facts/quick_facts.html)> Accessed March 2016.  
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American Society of Landscape Architects. The Outdoor Recreation Economy.2012. <[https://www.asla.org/uploadedFiles/CMS/Government\\_Affairs/Federal\\_Government\\_Affairs/OIA\\_OutdoorRecEconomyReport2012.pdf](https://www.asla.org/uploadedFiles/CMS/Government_Affairs/Federal_Government_Affairs/OIA_OutdoorRecEconomyReport2012.pdf)> Accessed March 2016.

American Farm Bureau Federation • American Sheep Industry Association • Masters of Foxhounds Association  
Mule Deer Foundation • National Association of Conservation Districts • National Cattlemen's Beef Association  
National Rifle Association • National Wildlife Refuge Association • Public Lands Council • Public Lands Foundation  
Rocky Mountain Elk Foundation • Safari Club International • Society for Range Management • The Wildlife Society