



U.S. Department of the Interior  
Bureau of Land Management

# Wild Horse and Burro Program Update

2023 National Wild Horse and Burro Advisory Board Meeting – Reno, Nevada

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Wild Horse and Burro Program







# Legal Authorities

## Wild Free-Roaming Horses and Burros Act, 1971

- Protect and manage wild horses and burros “as components of public lands”
- Maintain a “thriving natural ecological balance”

## Federal Land Policy and Management Act, 1976

- Established BLM “multiple-use” mission
- Allowed for motorized vehicles for wild horse and burro management





# Program Objectives

- To manage wild horses and burros as an integral part of the natural system of public lands
- Goal: **healthy herds on healthy public lands**



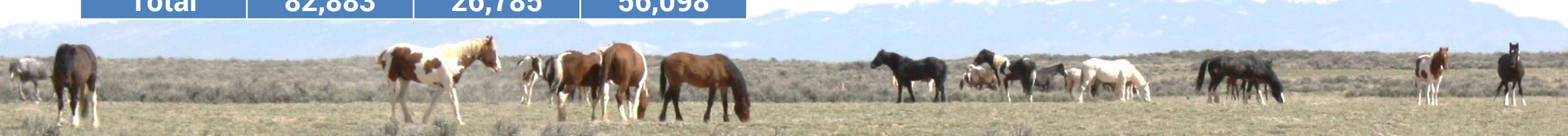
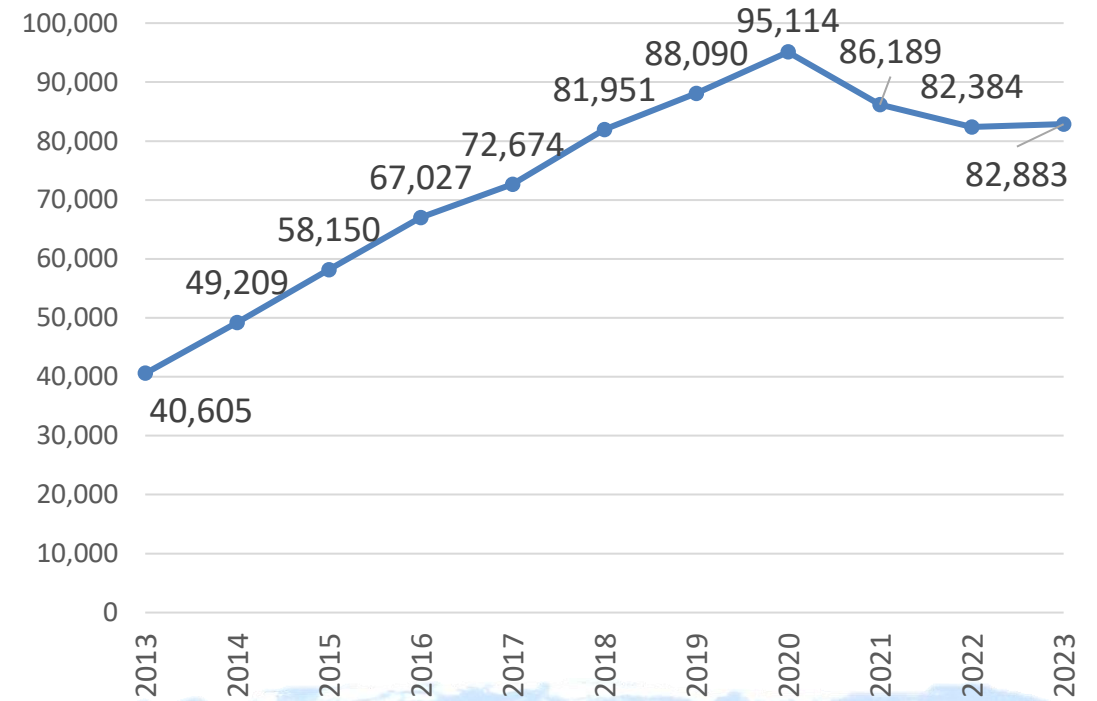


# Estimated population size

Estimated Wild Horse and Burro Populations on BLM-managed Public Lands as of March 1, 2023

State	Total	Max. AML	Excess
Arizona	6,670	1,676	4,994
California	7,020	2,200	4,820
Colorado	1,527	827	700
Idaho	651	617	34
Montana	205	120	85
Nevada	49,268	12,811	36,457
New Mexico	385	83	302
Oregon	4,573	2,700	1,873
Utah	3,756	1,956	1,800
Wyoming	8,828	3,795	5,033
<b>Total</b>	<b>82,883</b>	<b>26,785</b>	<b>56,098</b>

Estimated Wild Horse and Burro Populations on BLM-managed Public Lands, 2013-2023







# On-Range Program Update

## FY23 Gather/Fertility Control Objectives and Accomplishments as of June 2023

Activity	FY23 Goal	Completed
Gather	6,900	722
Remove	5,600	536
Emergency/Nuisance	Up to 1,500	117
Treat via darting	826	In progress
Treat via catch-treat-release	715	35
Surveys	59+	34





# On-Range Program Update - Research

New fertility control research projects launched May and June 2023:

- 1. Cornell University College of Veterinary Medicine and Northwest Wildlife Conservation Research**

Testing PZP (SpayVac) effectiveness when injected into neck muscle or flank

- 2. USDA Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service's National Wildlife Research Center**

Oocyte Growth Factor fertility control vaccine testing and development







# Off-Range Program Update

## Placement Events and Animals Offered\*

Events (Facility, Satellite, Online, Storefront)	Animals Offered
86	9,278

## Key Metrics\*

Adoptions	Sales	Transfers	Compliance	Titled
4,122	1,143	24	4,175	3,584

## AIP vs Non-AIP Adoptions\*

AIP	Non-AIP/Trained
1,790	2,332

## Off-Range Facilities\*\*

Corrals	Pastures	Public Pastures	Total
18,849	39,452	1,184	59,485



\*As of June 2023

\*\*As of May 2023





# Off-Range Program Update

- Online Corral has held four adoption/sale events so far in FY23 that offered 2,143 animals, of which 1,051 were placed into private care.
- The Mustang Heritage Foundation partnership has placed 2,058 animals into private care so far in FY23, representing 39% of total placements to date.
- Ongoing evaluation of pasture proposals received from a 2021 solicitation for additional off-range space.
- Adoption Incentive Program updates/improvement continue to be considered.



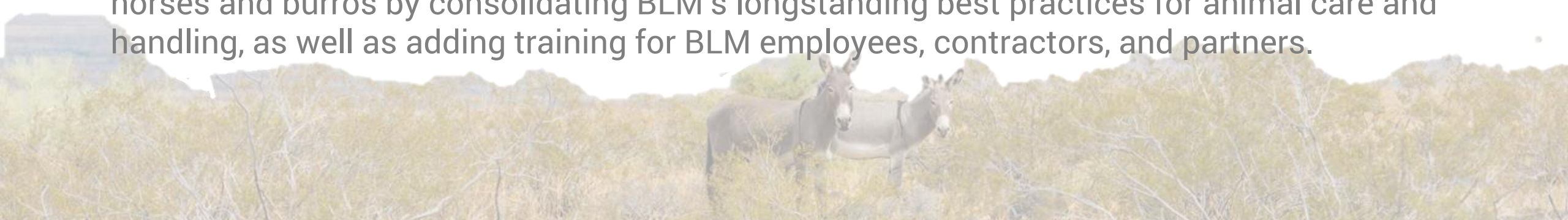




# HQ-Issued Policies/Bulletins in FY23

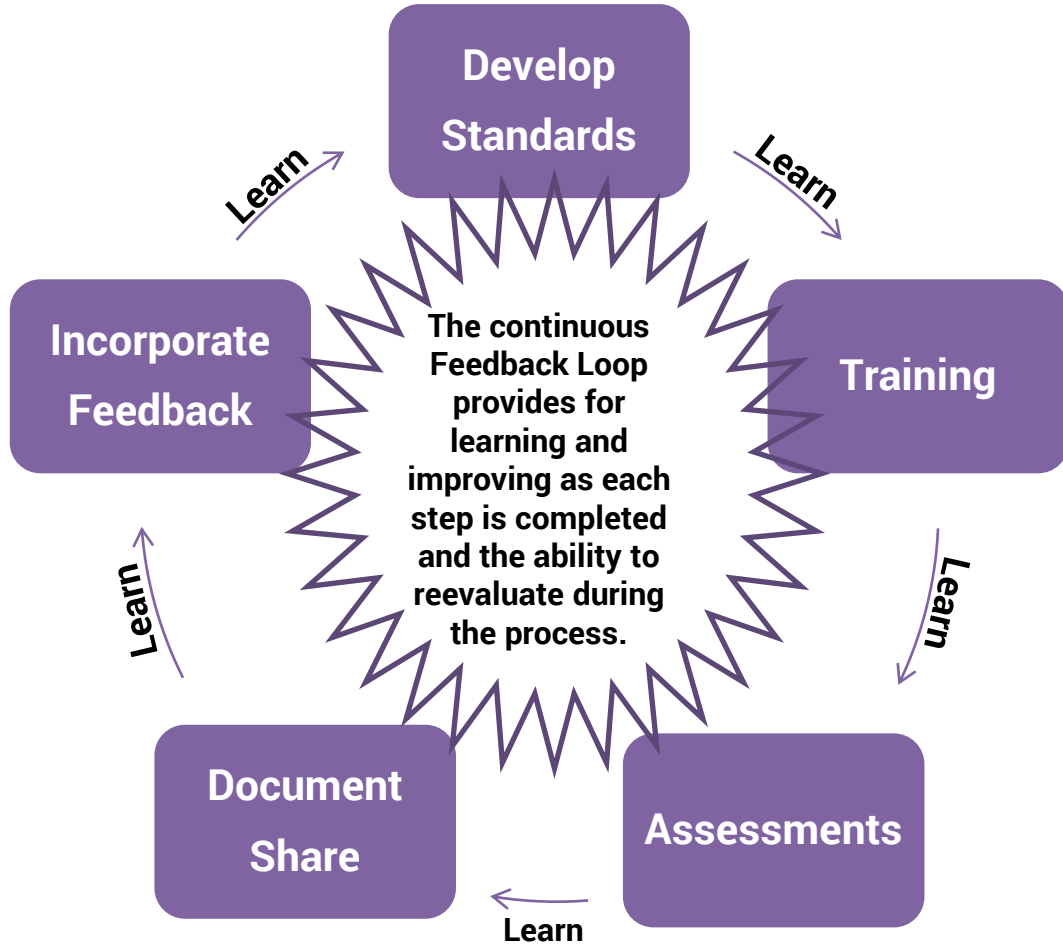
**Animal Health and Preparation** – On February 27, 2023, the Program updated policy for Animal Health, Vaccination, Gelding and Microchipping of Wild Horses and Burros (IM 2023-028). This IM establishes policy and procedures for evaluating animal health and body condition, providing preventive medical care for animals in holding, gelding (castrating) male wild horses and burros, issuing gelding reimbursement vouchers, and microchipping wild horses and burros.

**Comprehensive Animal Welfare Program (CAWP) for Off-Range Pastures** – On May 15, 2023, the Program issued new policy for the CAWP for Off-Range Pastures and Public Off-Range Pastures (IM 2023-41). This IM helps ensure humane treatment, handling, and care of wild horses and burros by consolidating BLM’s longstanding best practices for animal care and handling, as well as adding training for BLM employees, contractors, and partners.



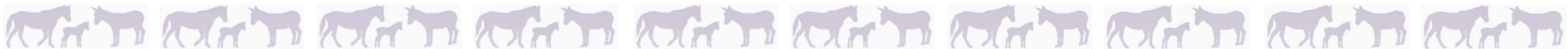


# CAWP Update



FY 2023 CAWP Assessments	State	Rating	Percentage
Florence Off-Range Corral	AZ	Good	94
Ewing Off-Range Corral	ES	Complies	74
Pauls Valley Off-Range Corral	NM	Good	92
Hutchinson Off-Range Corral	NM	Complies	85
Elm Creek Off-Range Corral	WY	Good	90
Carthage Adoption Event	ES	Good	89
Abilene Adoption Event	NM	Good	89
Doswell Adoption Event	ES		

Other FY 2023 CAWP Accomplishments
Off-Range Corrals, Transportation, and Adoption/Sale Events Training available through DOI Talent
Standards for Off-Range Pastures and Public Off-Range Pastures (IM 2023-041)
Feedback meetings to continue to improve the assessment process
Secured training for the assessment team to be completed later this year
Drafting a CAWP Handbook



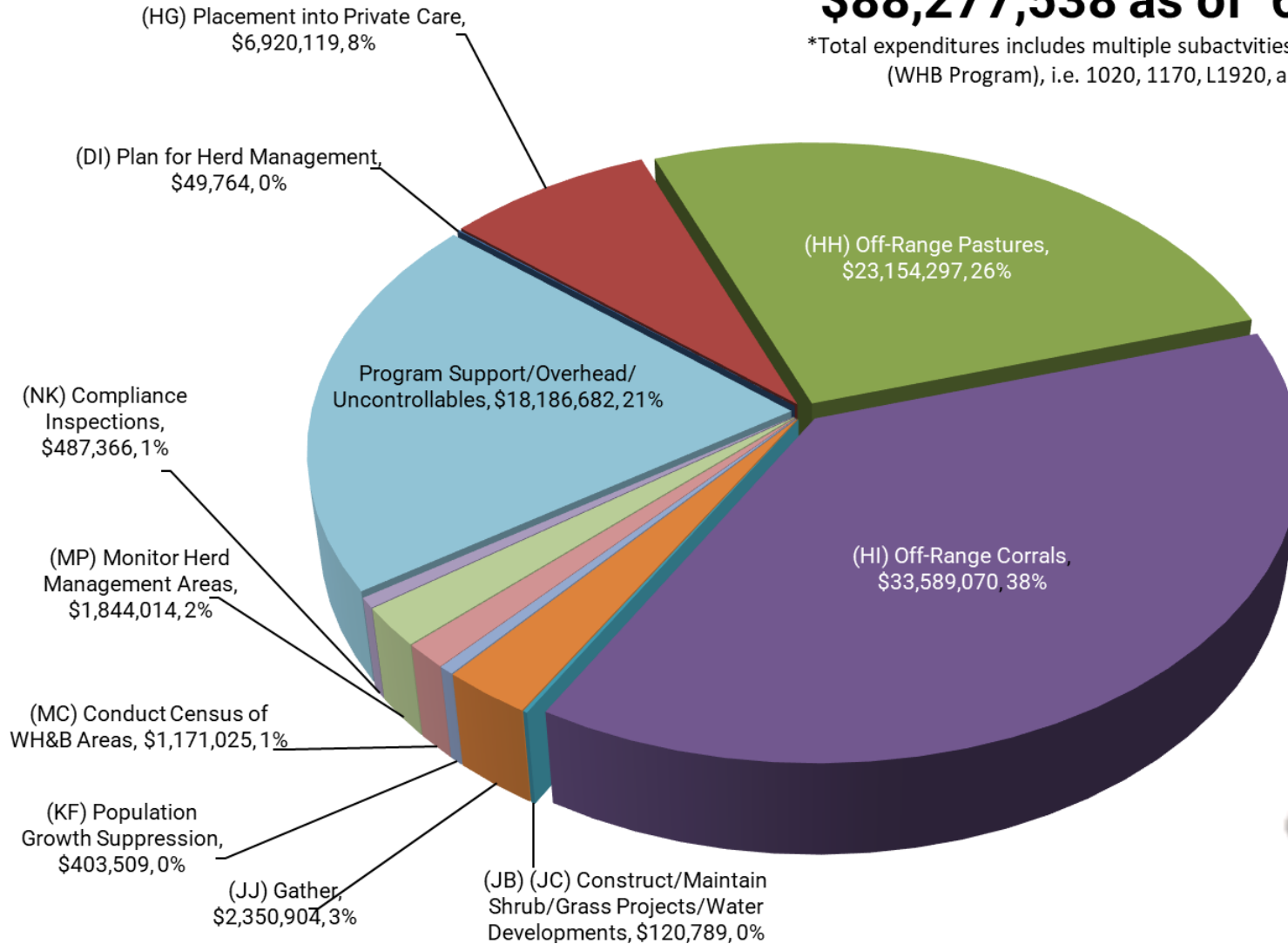




# FY 2023 Expenditures \*

## \$88,277,538 as of 6/1/23

\*Total expenditures includes multiple subactivities other than 1060 (WHB Program), i.e. 1020, 1170, L1920, and L6830





# Funding Opportunity for Grants

- Solicitation released in 2022 for grants to support off- and on-range management efforts
- Off-range awards announced in March:
  - \$4 million to Mustang Heritage Foundation
  - \$750k to new partner Mustang Champions
- On-range awards will be announced soon







# Rule-making Process



BLM Process  
OMB/OIRA Process  
Public process



# President's Budget Request FY2024

The President's proposed budget for FY 2024 is \$154.8 million. This budget request will assist the BLM to meet the needs of the WH&B program during a time of unprecedented price increases in the cost of off-range holding.

- The BLM will conduct limited on-range operations. The requested budget allows the program to gather and remove up to 1,500 animals, which may only be suitable for emergency/nuisance situations
- The BLM and its partners continue to support the use of fertility control to slow herd growth, which is most effective once a population is at or near its appropriate management level.
- Off-range holding and caring of animals typically consuming more than 60 percent of the WH&B budget. Focus will be on moving animals from corrals to more cost efficient off-range pastures.
- Continue with private care placement including Adoption Incentive Program.



# Questions?



Credit: Frank Sorger