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

Wild Horse and Burro Roundtable

September 26, 2017

Wild Horse and Burro Program™
U.S. Department of the Interior
Bureau of Land Management

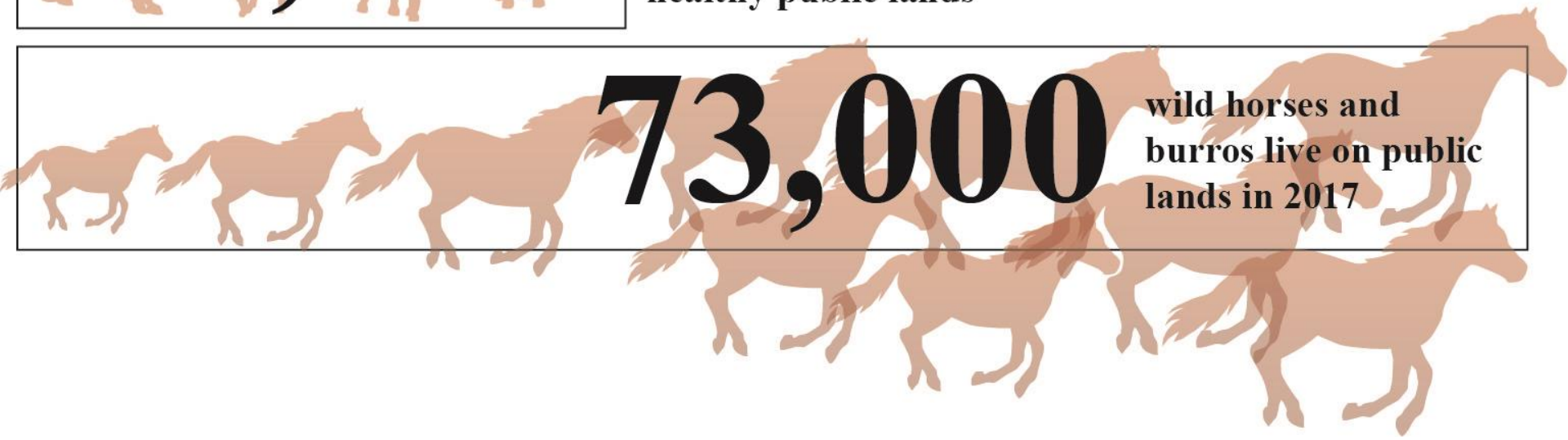
We must develop a broad coalition of interest groups and citizens willing to contribute to the management of wild horses and burros.

Wild Horses and Burros Population

25,000 wild horses and burros lived on public lands in 1971

27,000 wild horses and burros can live in balance with wildlife and livestock on healthy public lands

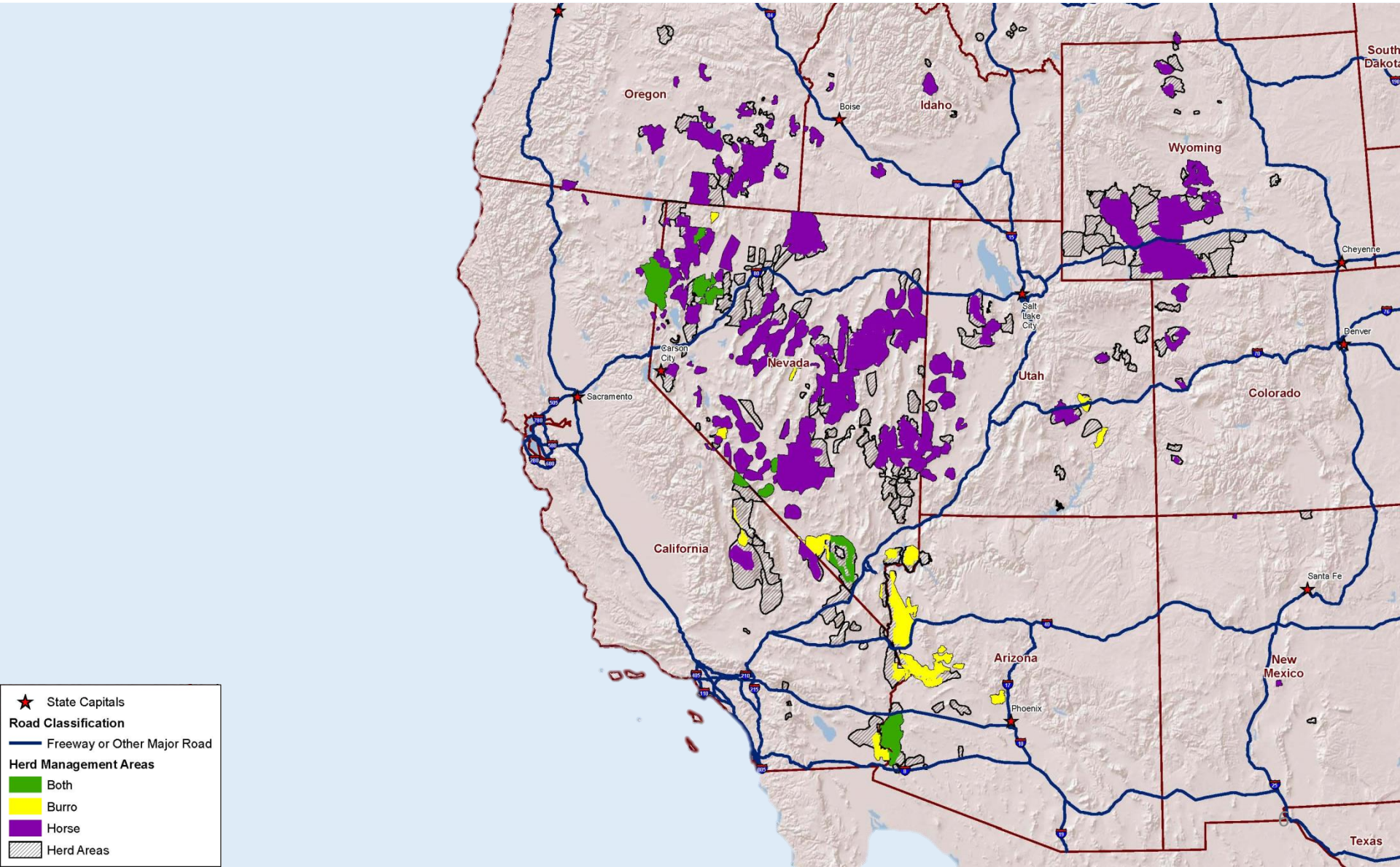
73,000 wild horses and burros live on public lands in 2017



Wild Horses and Burros (WH&B) by the Numbers

- **10** Western states have WHBs
- **177** Herd Management Areas (HMAs)
- **26.9** million acres of public rangelands
- **43,436** animals in holding (July 2017)
  - 11,624 in 26 corrals ($4.99 per day; $28.4 million total in FY16)
  - 32,771 in 28 pastures ($1.82 per day; $21 million total in FY16)

Herd Areas and Herd Management Areas



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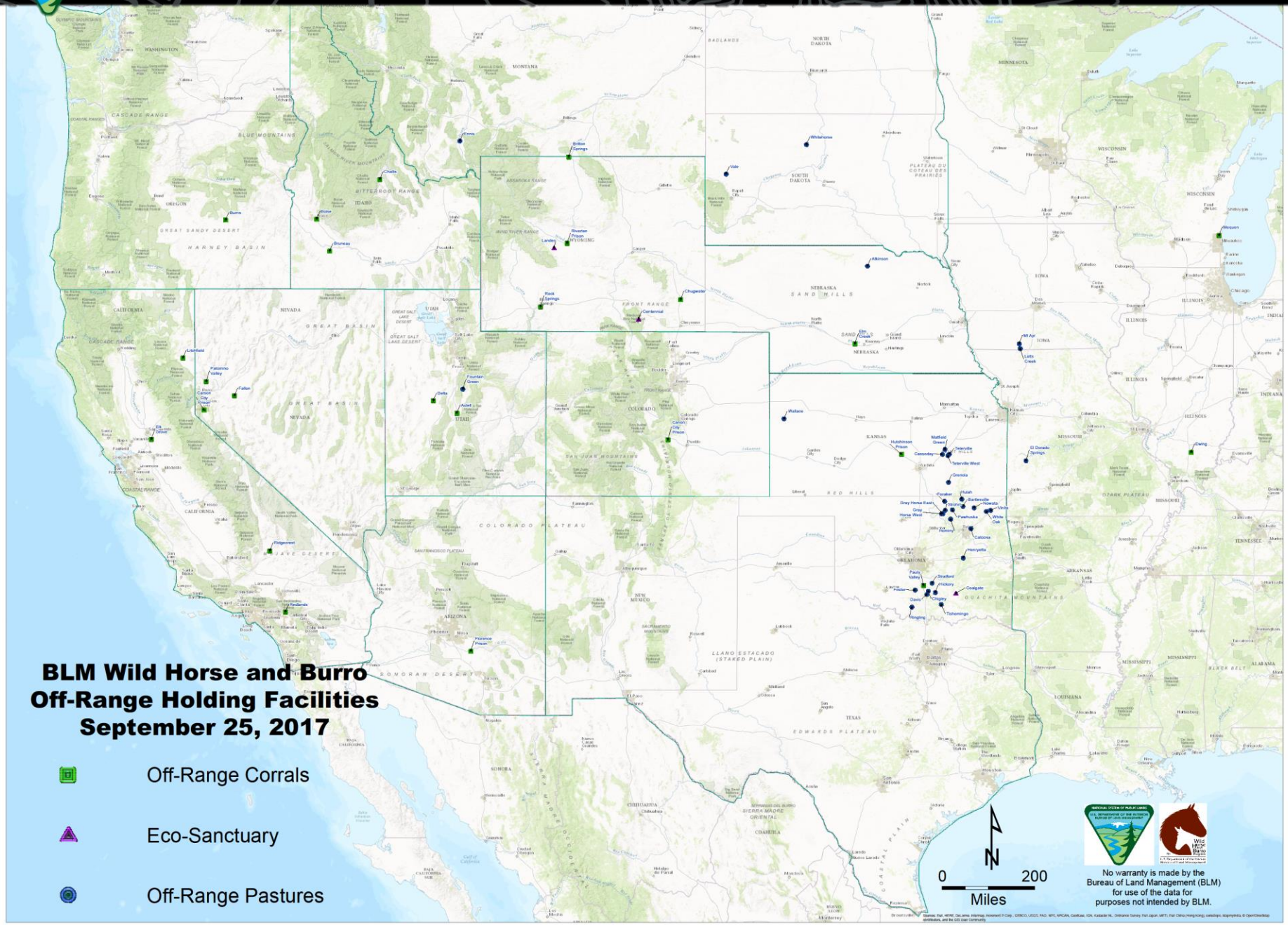
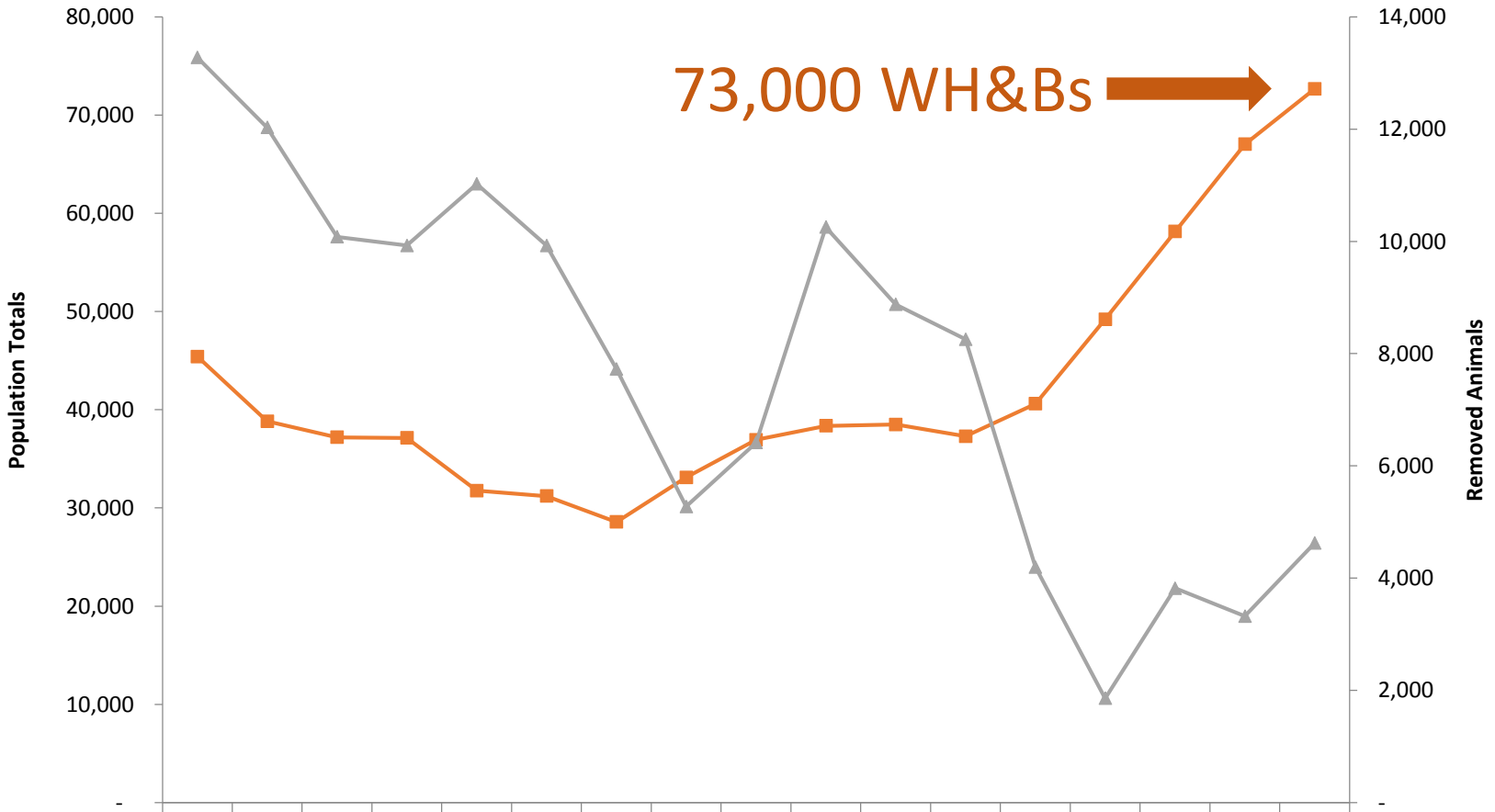
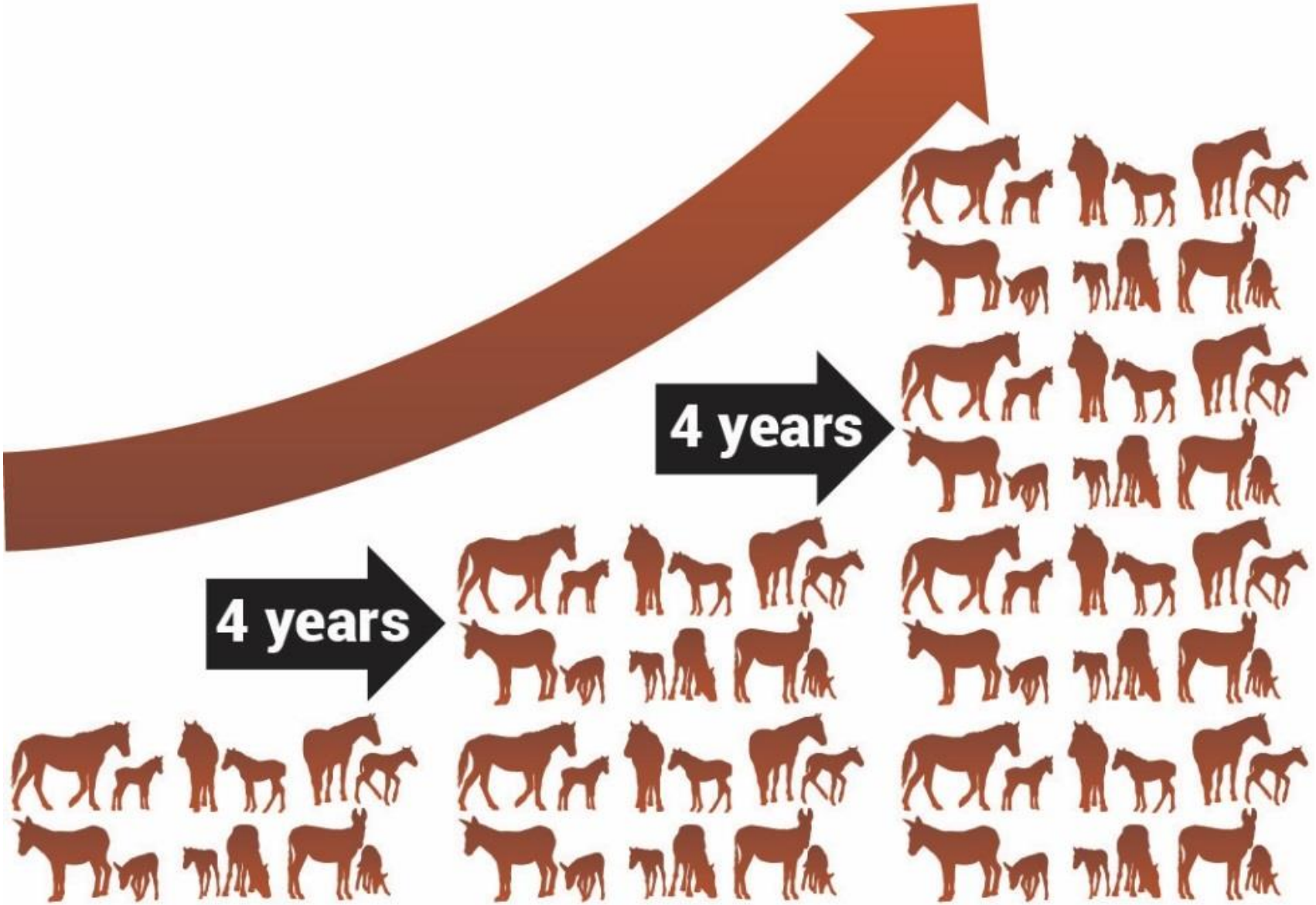


Overpopulation



	2001	2002	2003	2004	2005	2006	2007	2008	2009	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016	2017
On-Range Population #	45,414	38,815	37,186	37,135	31,760	31,206	28,563	33,105	36,940	38,365	38,497	37,294	40,605	49,209	58,150	67,027	72,674
Removed	13,277	12,029	10,081	9,926	11,023	9,926	7,726	5,275	6,413	10,255	8,877	8,255	4,196	1,857	3,819	3,320	4,625

2017 removals are anticipated



Unchecked herds double in size every 4 years

Overpopulation effects

- Damage to rangeland conditions and wildlife habitat
- Moving out of designated management areas onto private land and public highways
- Effecting other land uses such as recreation, tourism and hunting
- Impacting the economic viability of small western communities

Care for Un-adopted Animals

Off-Range Corrals

- 11,624 animals as of July, 2017
- $4.99/animal/day
- $28.4 million spent in FY16

Off-Range Pastures

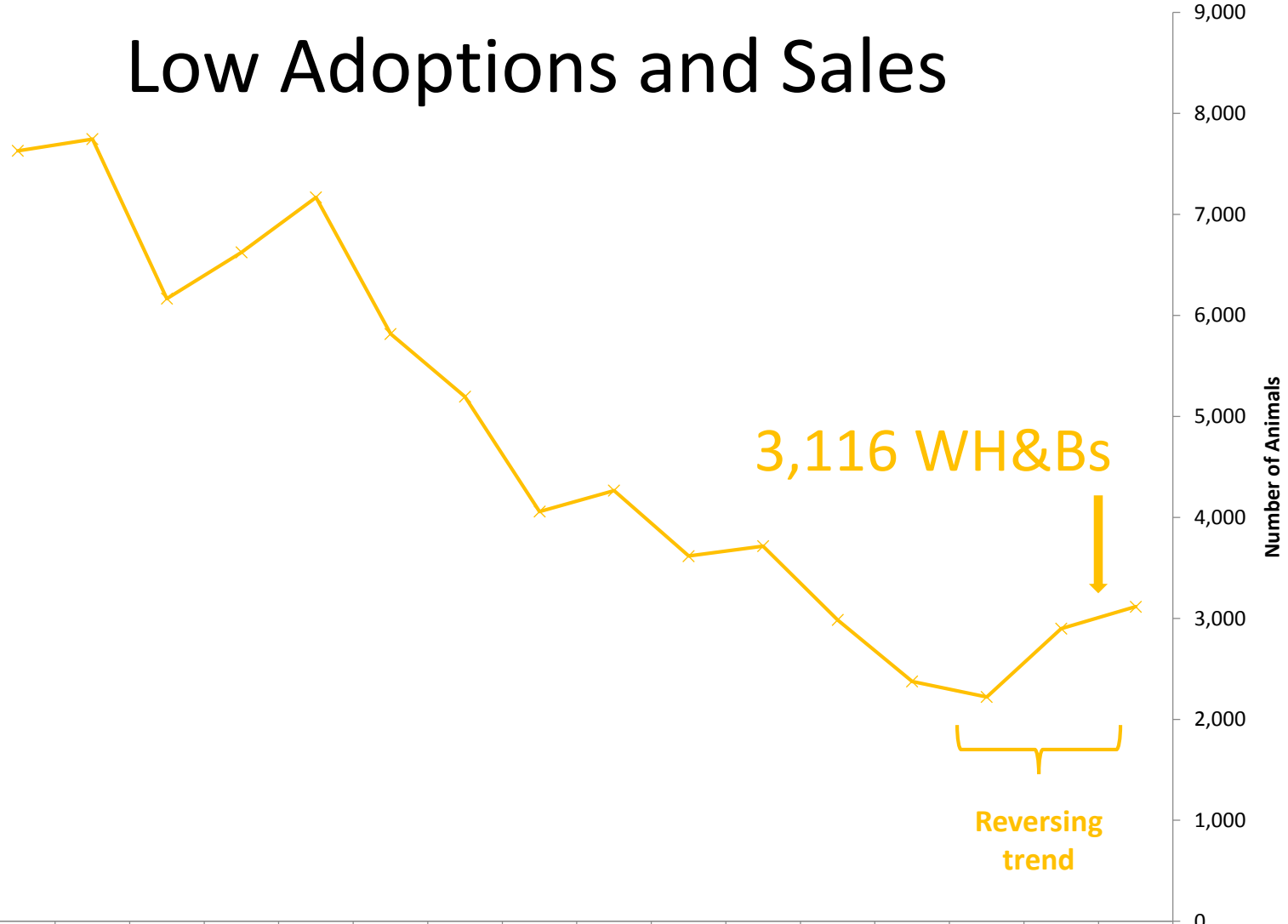
- 32,771 animals as of July, 2017
- $1.82/animal/day
- $21 million spent in FY16

High Costs to Care for Un-adopted Animals

Adoption and Sales

- An application is required for both adoption and sales
- **Adoption fee**: $125 dollars
- **Sale price**: negotiated or competitive bid
- **Placement**: dramatic decline from 7,800 in 2002 to 3,100 in 2016
- Large cost associated with training

Low Adoptions and Sales



	2001	2002	2003	2004	2005	2006	2007	2008	2009	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016
Adoption + Sales	7,630	7,746	6,165	6,624	7,169	5,817	5,195	4,057	4,265	3,617	3,715	2,985	2,376	2,222	2,898	3,116

Management & Control

- Partnerships can help:
  - Assist with fertility control application (field darting) to control population
  - Assume the care and maintenance of un-adopted animals
  - Place animals in private care or adoptions

Increase Partnerships

Photo Credit: John Wheland