

Nevada's Wild Horse & Burro Program



Nevada Tri-RAC Meeting
April 5, 2017

Ben Noyes
Acting WH&B Program Lead
Nevada State Office



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Basic Information on the Nevada WH&B Program:

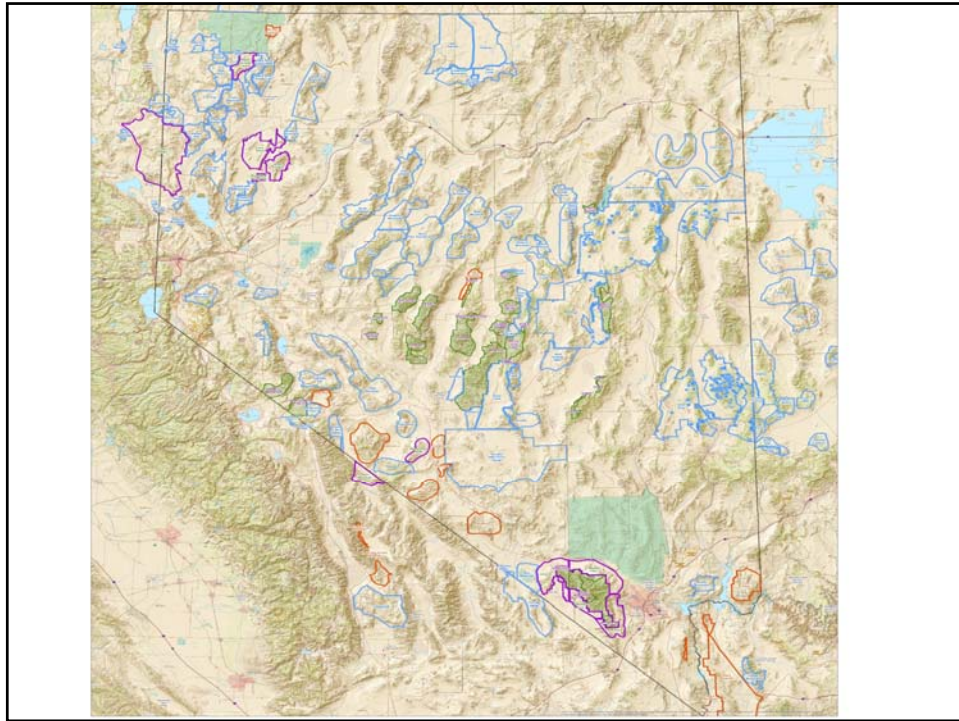
- Number of WH&B Specialists in Nevada: 9
- 83 Herd Management Areas
- March 1st projected population = 38,000-39,000
- State-wide Appropriate Management Level = 12,811 (includes horses & burros)
- Number of HMAs at or over AML: 72

2016 Accomplishments

- Removed 900 excess WH&B's
- Treated 100 mares with fertility control
- Conduct 54 population inventories
- Monitor 45 HMAs
- Placed 80 animals through adoptions and agencies

2017 Targets/Accomplishments

- Remove 2,000 excess WH&B's
- Treat 250 mares with fertility control
- Conduct 42 population inventories
- Monitor 50 HMAs
- Adopt 90 animals

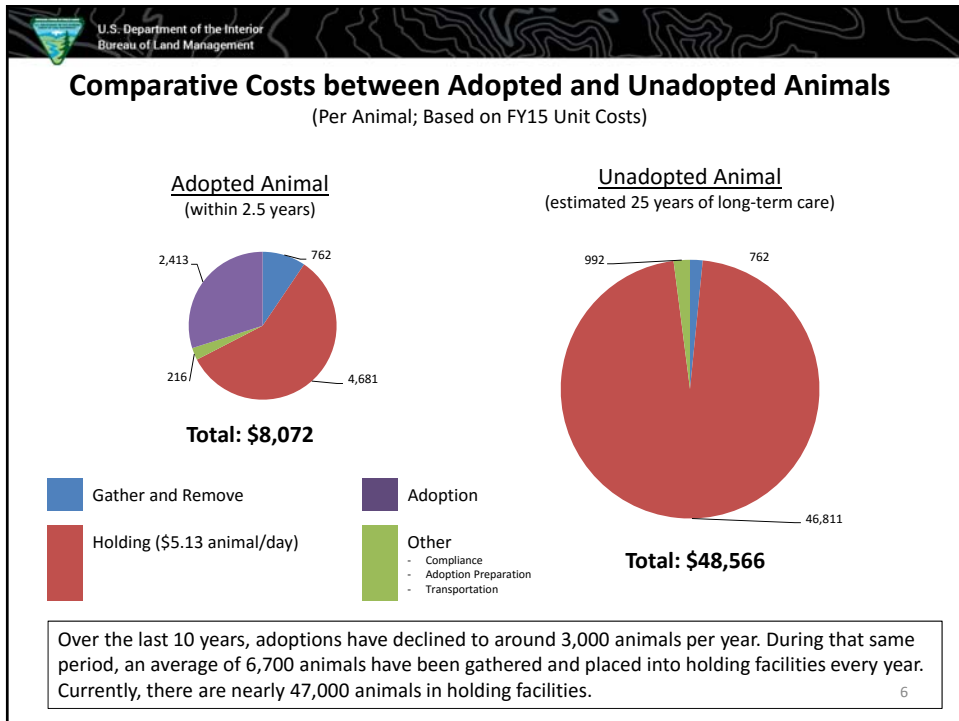
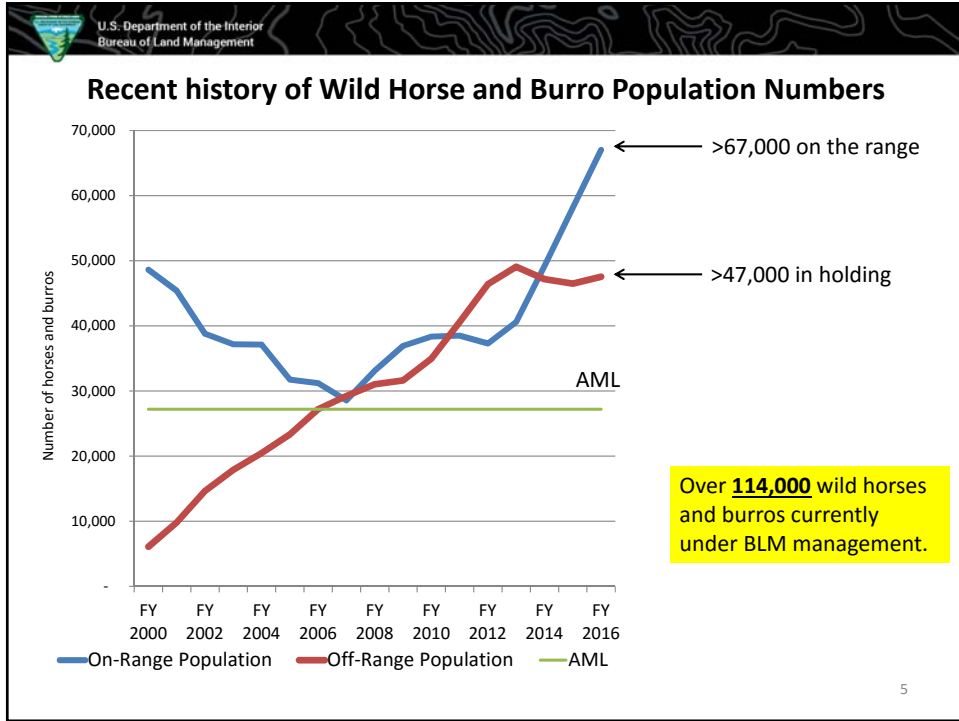



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Wild Horses and Burros by the Numbers

- **10** western states have WHBs
- **177** Herd Management Areas (HMA's)
- **26.9** million acres of public rangelands
- **26,715** animals is the Appropriate Management Level (AML)
- **67,027** animals on the range (as of March 2016)
 - ½ in Nevada
- **46,574** animals in holding (February 2017)
 - 13,838 in 26 corrals (\$4.99 per day; **\$28.4 million** total in FY16)
 - 32,736 in 28 pastures (\$1.82 per day; **\$21 million** total in FY16)
- **3,116** adopted/sold in 2016 (\$2,367/animal adopted)
 - Adoptions have declined - **7,800 (2012) to 2,500 (present)**
- **3,038** removed from the range in 2016 (\$1,007/animal removed)

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NV Management Challenges:

- Significant overpopulation of WH&Bs across NV.
 - Current population estimate is 3X the state-wide AML of 12,811
- Extended periods of drought impacted animal health
- Shortage of water may still impact HMAs in 2017.
- Program-wide budget limitations and other Program priorities is limiting NV's ability to achieve AMLs.
- WH&B populations continue to increase and expand beyond resource capabilities of the HMAs.
- Increasing private property and public safety concerns across the state due to expanding populations.



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National Gather Priorities

- Court Orders
- Public health and safety
- Private Land Encroachment
- Sagebrush Focal Area - Greater Sage grouse Habitat
- Implementation of Research
- Emergency removal of imperiled animals

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NV WH&B Population Management


2017 gathers approved for sagebrush focal areas, nuisance/public safety, escalating issues, court orders, and fertility control implementation:

- Maverick-Medicine HMA – water issues
- Stone Cabin HMA – selective removal and fertility control
- Pancake HMA – water issues
- Goshute HMA – water issues
- Owyhee HMA (SFA) – selective removal and fertility control
- Little Owyhee HMA (SFA) – selective removal and fertility control
- Rock Creek HMA (SFA) – selective removal and fertility control
- Marietta Burro Range (outside) – private property
- Silver King HMA (outside) – public safety
- Eagle HMA (outside) – public safety
- Reveille HMA – court order
- Johnnie HMA (outside) – private property and public safety

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WH&B Research

- Invested \$11 million in 21 research projects to develop better fertility control methods and new management tools
 - Longer acting contraceptive vaccines
 - Safe spay & neuter methods
 - Better tools: robust population models; burro survey methods, evaluate collars for GPS tracking, & sentinel herd demography studies.



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Key NV Adoption Partnerships

- Northern NV Correctional Center (NNCC)
 - Second largest Prison-based WH&B holding and training program
 - Currently caring for over 1,400 excess WH&Bs
 - Trains approximately 75-100 animals annually
 - Trained over 1,100 WH&B's for placement with American public and other State and Federal agencies.



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Key NV Adoption Partnerships

- Northern NV Correctional Center (NNCC)
- State and Federal Agencies
 - US Border Patrol
 - US Marine Corps
 - US Forest Service
 - CA and ID Game and Fish Dept.
 - Washoe County Sheriff's Dept.



US Border Patrol

USFS

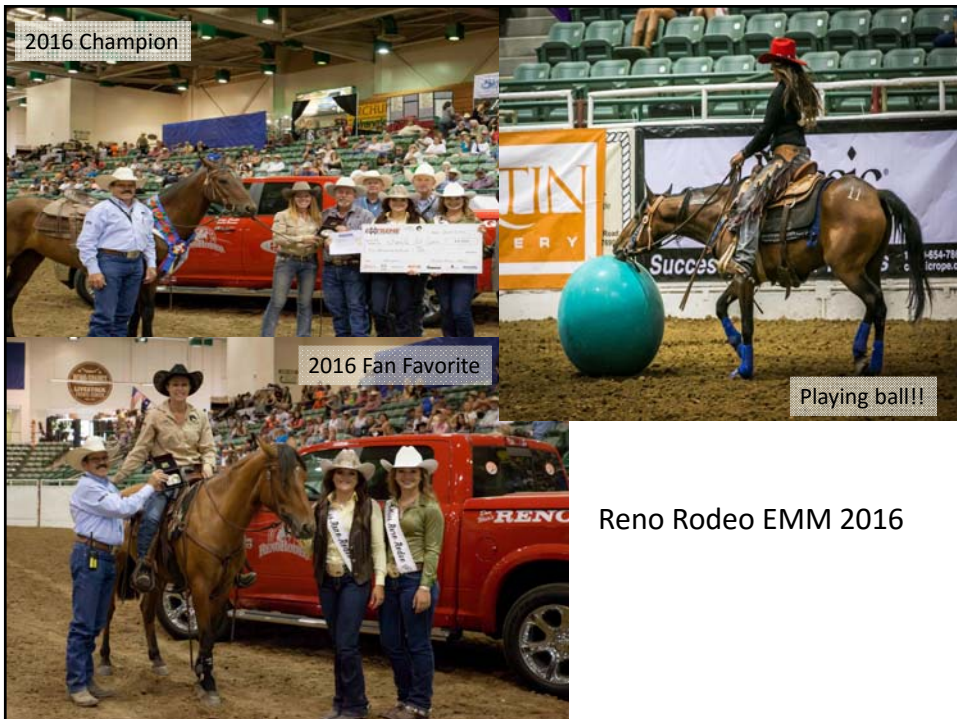
CA Fish and Game

Washoe County Sheriff Dept

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Key NV Adoption Partnerships

- Northern NV Correctional Center (NNCC)
- State and Federal Agencies
- Mustang Heritage Foundation (MHF)
 - 2015, 2016, & 2017 Reno Rodeo EMM



2016 Champion

2016 Fan Favorite

Playing ball!!

Reno Rodeo EMM 2016

