Finding A Way Forward for Wild Horses and Burros: Opportunities and Obligations

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Common Goals for Rangeland & Horses

- Ecosystem health
- Humane treatment
- Fiscal Responsibility
- Long-term Vision
Our Proposal

• Humane groups are actively exploring options

• ASPCA, Return to Freedom, HSUS, and stakeholders in Nevada and Utah in discussion

• October, 2017 proposed multi-prong management strategy to Secretary Zinke

• Conversations are ongoing

• Time sensitive
Proposal Summary

Critical Components:

1) **Gathers and Removals**: Prioritize densely populated HMAs where rangeland and wildlife are impacted.
2) **Fertility Control**: Treat gathered horses with fertility control prior to being returned to the range.
3) **Relocation**: Relocate horses from range and current holding facilities to large cost-effective pasture facilities funded through public-private partnerships.
4) **Adoptions**: Promote adoptions to reduce captive populations and costs.
Strategic Elements

• Urgency

• Prevention

• Streamlining

• Marketing
Holistic Management Approach is Key

- The four tiers of this approach – gathers and removals, fertility treatment, public-private partnerships, and adoptions – are crucial to the ultimate success of the program.

- Failure to effectively implement any part of this program jeopardizes the success of a holistic and sustainable wild horse and burro program.
New Sales Policy

• July 2018 – BLM issues IM No. 2018-066, removing safeguards from 2014 wild horse and burro sales policy

• 2014 policy put in place after revelation that 1700 federally protected mustangs were sold to slaughter

• Anti-slaughter protections stripped
  o Up to 25 horses can be purchased (vs. 4 horses)
  o No time period (vs. within 6-month period)
  o No reporting of concerns
  o No database of problem buyers

• Inadequate legal protection in contract

• Jeopardizes support for removals
Roundup Protocols

- Minimize helicopter gathers
- Humane safeguards (CAWP)
- Training and proper restrictions for contractors
Political Realities

We cannot:

1. Do nothing

2. Kill as management approach ("euthanasia")

3. Sell for slaughter
We must walk this path together.