Congress directed the Bureau of Land Management and U.S. Forest Service in 1971 to manage and protect America’s wild horses and burros as part of a **thriving natural ecological balance** on public lands.

**The Challenge**

- **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
- **82,000** wild horses and burros live on public lands in 2018

Since receiving federal protection, the wild horse and burro population on the public lands has soared, affecting the ecological balance.

**Adoption and Sales Program**

- **245,000** wild horses and burros placed into good homes since 1971
- **9,700** adoptions and sales in 1995
- **5,700** adoptions and sales in 2005
- **4,099** adoptions and sales in 2017

Adoption and sales of excess wild horses and burros to good homes have not kept up with population growth on the range.

- Unchecked herds DOUBLE in size every 4 years

**Cost of Care**

- **50,000** wild horses and burros in off-range facilities
- **$32 million** goes toward remaining costs
- **$49 million** goes toward off-range care

The BLM spends nearly 2/3 of the wild horse and burro program’s annual budget to care for unadopted and unsold animals, leaving few funds for on-range management and care.
The BLM is committed to working with Congress, state and local governments, partner organizations, and the public to find commonsense solutions for putting the wild horse and burro program back on a sustainable and fiscally responsible track.