



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

Wild Horse and Burro Program

Overview – Holle' Waddell, Division Chief (Acting)



Wild Horses, Sand Wash Basin Herd Management Area, Colorado



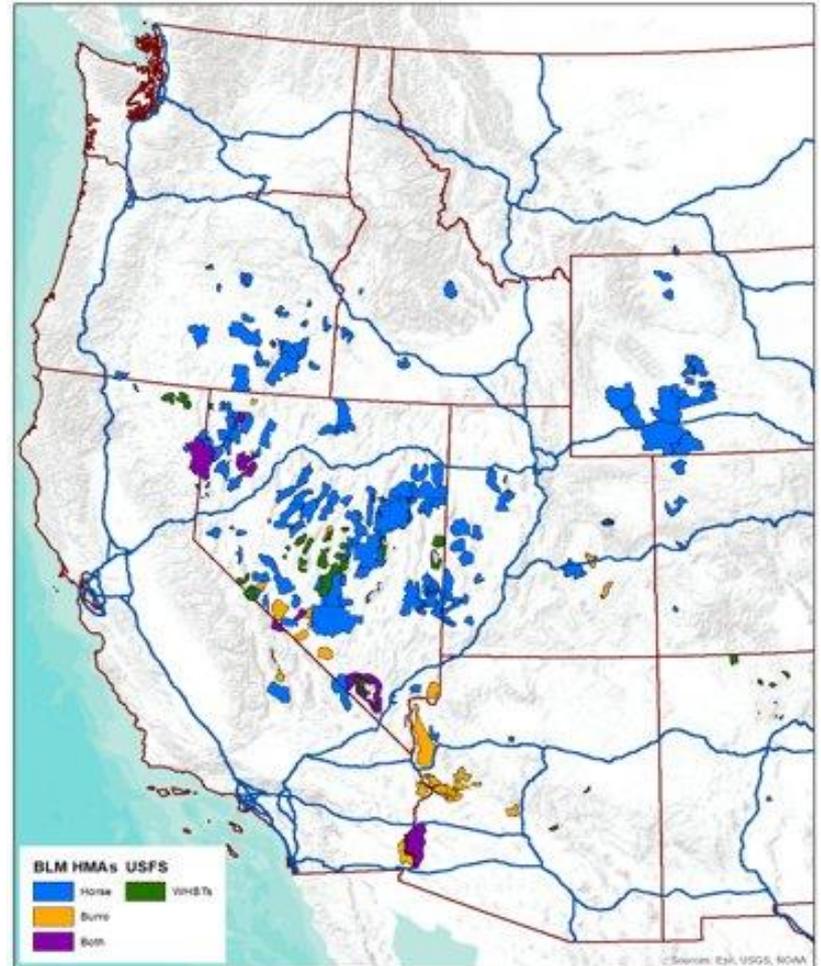
Legal Authorities

- 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 management



Program Objective

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

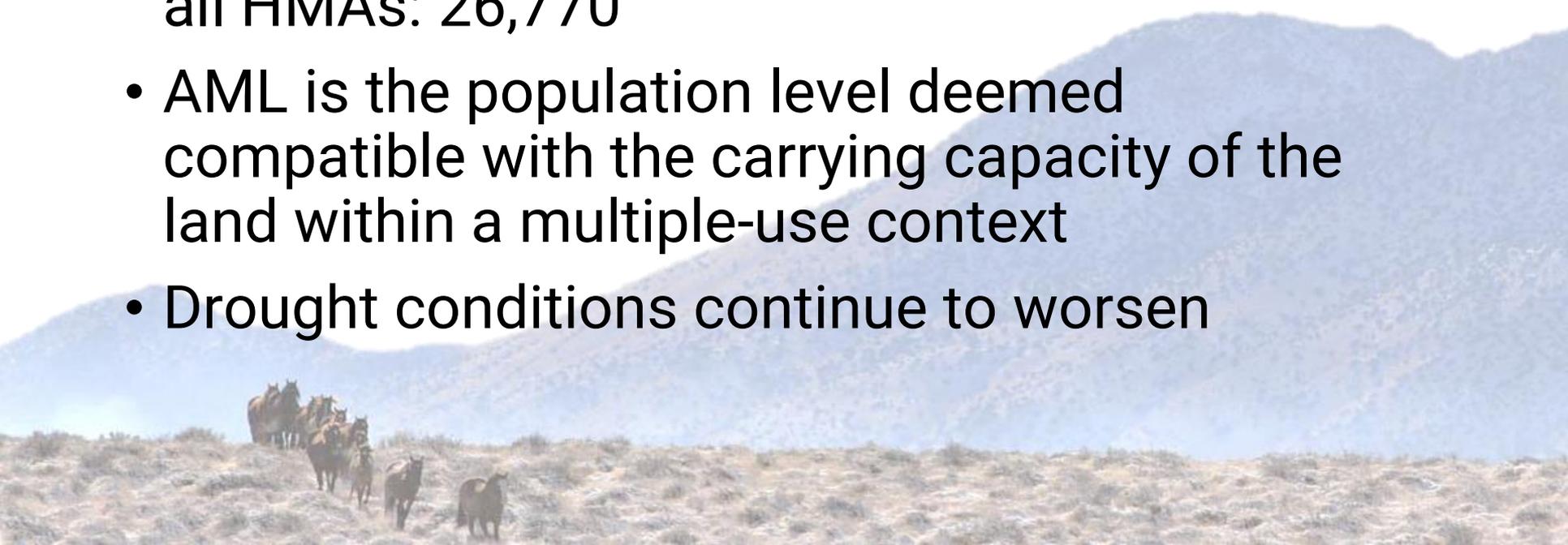


Map of Bureau of Land Management and Forest Service wild horse and burro management areas on public lands



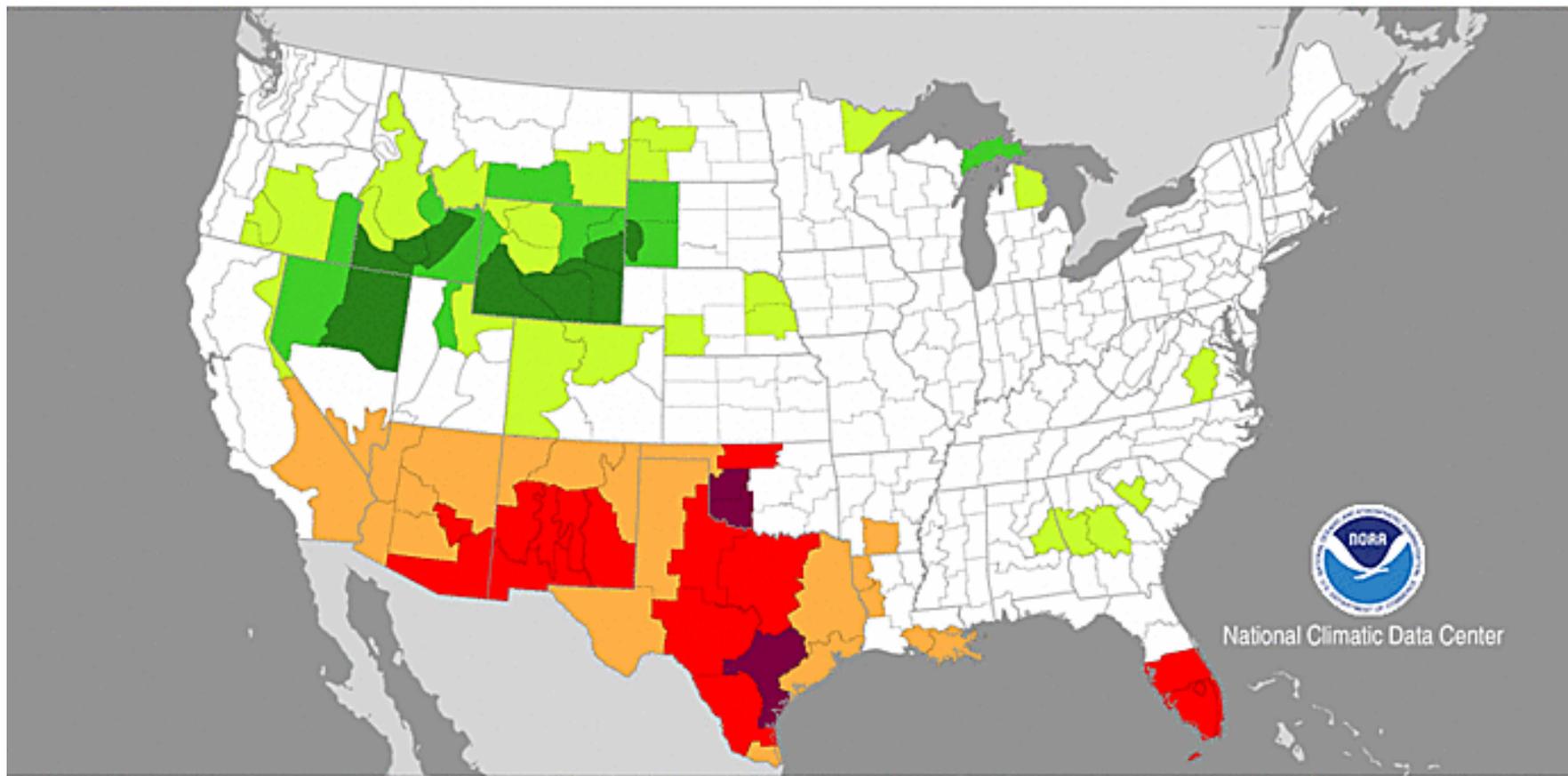
Current Situation: On-Range

- 177 herd management areas (HMAs) comprising 26.9 million acres across 10 Western states
- Appropriate management level (AML) across all HMAs: 26,770
- AML is the population level deemed compatible with the carrying capacity of the land within a multiple-use context
- Drought conditions continue to worsen





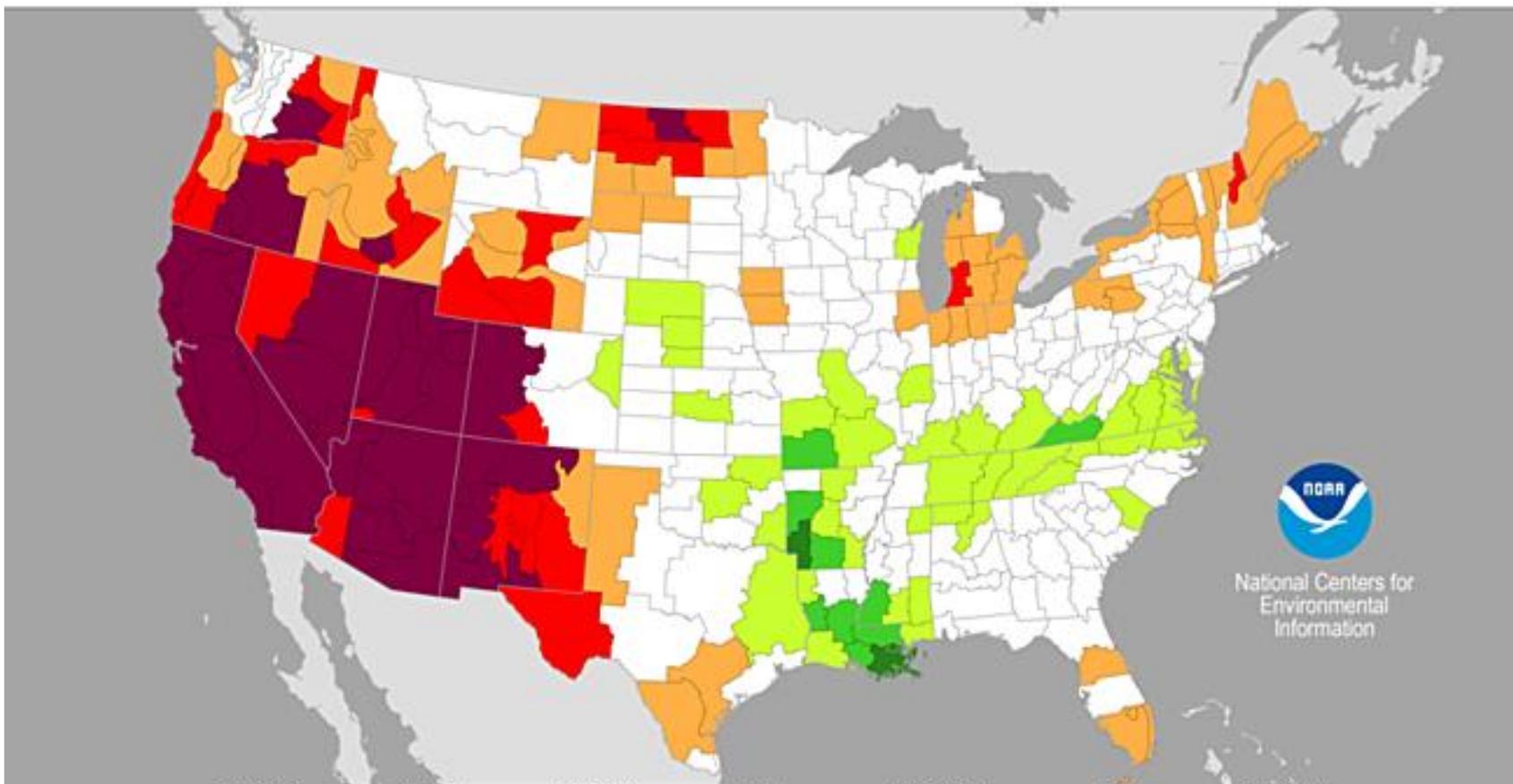
Drought Condition: May 1971



extreme drought	severe drought	moderate drought	mid-range	moderately moist	very moist	extremely moist
						
-4.00 and below	-3.00 to -3.99	-2.00 to -2.99	-1.99 to +1.99	+2.00 to +2.99	+3.00 to +3.99	+4.00 and above



Drought Condition: May 2021



National Centers for
Environmental
Information

extreme
drought



-4.00
and
below

severe
drought



-3.00
to
-3.99

moderate
drought



-2.00
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mid-
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-1.99
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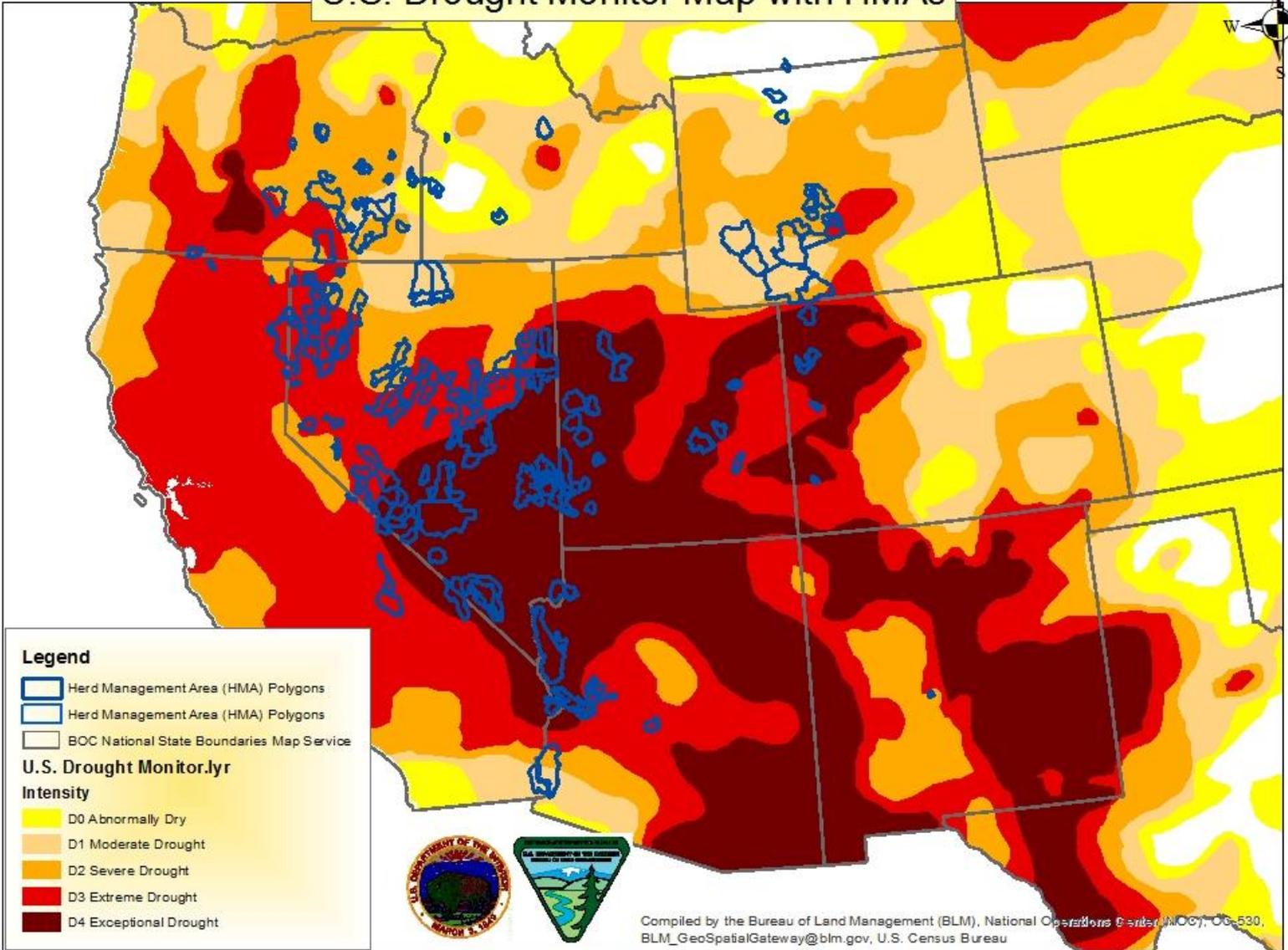
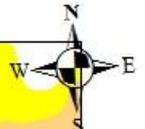
extremely
moist



+4.00
and
above



U.S. Drought Monitor Map with HMAs



Compiled by the Bureau of Land Management (BLM), National Operations Center (NOC), OG-530, BLM_GeoSpatialGateway@blm.gov, U.S. Census Bureau

Data published in:
North American Datum 1983 (NAD83)
UTM coordinates, Zone 11, meters

NO WARRANTY IS MADE BY THE BUREAU OF LAND MANAGEMENT AS TO THE ACCURACY, RELIABILITY, OR COMPLETENESS OF THESE DATA FOR INDIVIDUAL USE OR AGRICULTURAL USE WITH OTHER DATA.



Management: On-Range

Gathers and Removals

- Principal tool used for reducing overpopulated herds; operations performed by way of helicopters and bait traps
- Gathers are conducted for one of several reasons: planned population management; emergency conditions on the ground; safety and nuisance concerns





Management: On-Range

Population Growth Suppression

- Principal tool used for maintaining AML on HMAs
- Vaccines (currently in use PZP, PZP-22, and GonaCon) are administered during gather operations or by darting on the range; Intrauterine devices applied
- Combination of temporary fertility control vaccines and safe, permanent sterilization of some animals





Current Situation: Off-Range

- Off-Range Corrals (28): Holding facilities where animals are prepped and made available for private care placement adoption, sale and transfer
- Off-Range Pastures (42): Free-roaming facilities for excess animals for which there is no demand for placement into private care

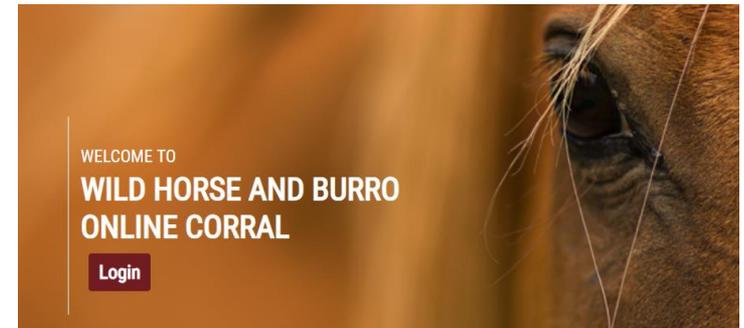




Management: Off-Range

Adoptions and Sales

- Excess animals removed from the range are offered for placement into private care either through adoption, sale or transfer
- Adoption and sale events are held at BLM facilities, off-site events or online



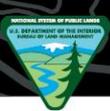


Management: Off-Range

Incentives and Partnerships



- The BLM's Adoption Incentive Program offers up to \$1,000 to offset the cost of caring for and training an adopted wild horse or burro.
 - Over 7,500 animals have been adopted through the AIP program through 06/03/2021, reducing outyear holding costs by approximately \$185 million.
- Gently and trained animals are offered through partnerships and contracts



Instruction Memorandum

Gather Schedule

- Provides overview of management options when planning gathers
- Defines timeline for annual gather schedule approval process
- Defines emergency and nuisance gathers
- Identifies emergency and nuisance approval process
- Makes recommendations on items to consider in developing gather operations



Instruction Memorandum

Comprehensive Animal Welfare Program (CAWP) – **Permanent**

- Re-affirms and demonstrates the agency's commitment to humane treatment of wild horses and burros.
- (PIM) 2021-002 published 12/18/2020
- Direction, guidance, training, and requirements for BLM employees, contractors, and partners.





Instruction Memorandum

Euthanasia

- Defines conditions where euthanizing an animal may be appropriate
- Defines where the authority for euthanizing animals exists
- Defines terms related to euthanasia such as
 - Old Wild Horse or Burro
 - Sick Wild Horse or Burro
 - Lamé Wild Horse or Burro



Compliance Handbook

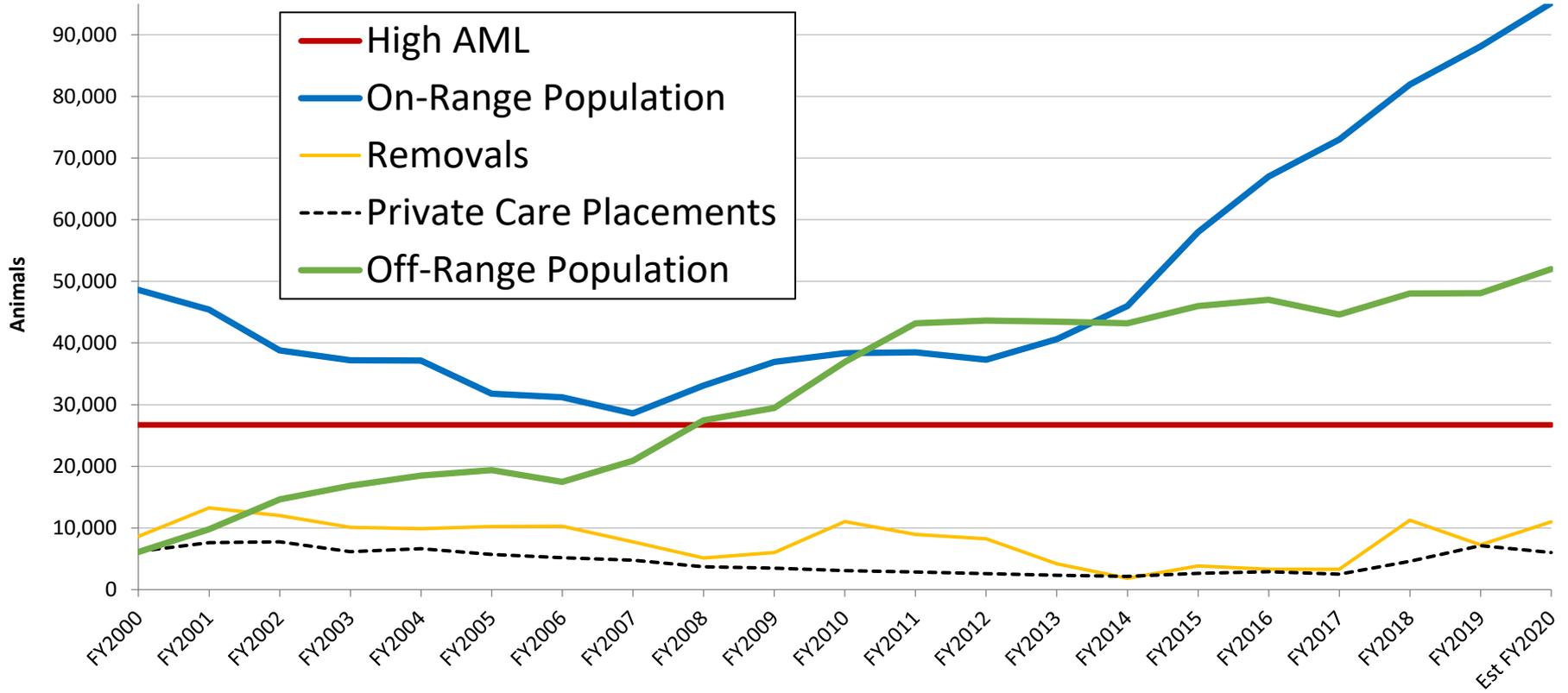
Compliance Inspections

- Added virtual component
 - Random first time
 - Required by policy (mandatory compliance list)
 - Random follow-up
 - Title eligibility
 - Same facility/area
- Updated language throughout document
- Modernized document
- Removed outdated attachments



By the Numbers

AML, Populations, Removals and Placements

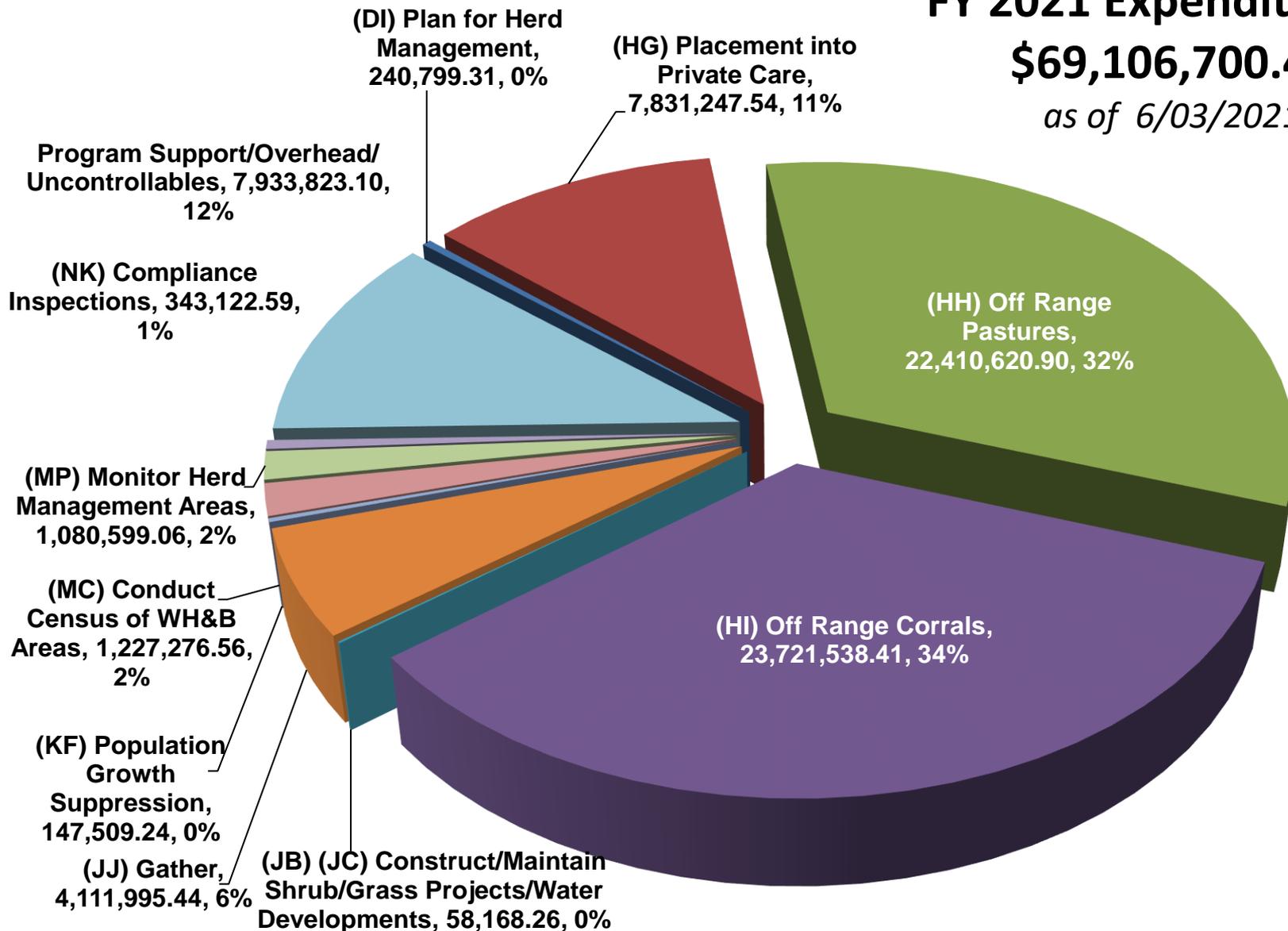




FY 2021 Expenditures *

\$69,106,700.41

as of 6/03/2021



* Total expenditures includes L1020, L1110, L1150, L1170, L5210, L5220, L1920, and L9830, as well as L1060 (WHB Program), funding expended in FY2021.



Accomplishments

Program Area	FY2020	FY2021 (as of 5/10/2021)
Private Care Placement (HG)	6,162	4,179
Off-Range Corrals (HI)	4,462,730 Feed Days (average daily population 12,227)	3,633,556 Feed Days (average daily population 16,367)
Off-Range Pastures (HH)	14,107,838 Feed Days (average daily population 38,651)	9,002,058 Feed Days (average daily population 40,550)
Removals (JJ)	10,824	5,430
Population Growth Suppression (KF)	758	332
Compliance Check (NK)	4,953	2,829



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Questions?

