BUREAU OF LAND MANAGEMENT

Wild Horse and Burro Program

Congress directed the Bureau of Land Management (BLM) and U.S. Forest Service in 1971 to manage and protect America's wild horses and burros to support a thriving natural ecological balance on public lands.

THE CHALLENGE

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

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 today.

82,883

Wild horses and burros estimated to live on public lands in 2023.

Wild horse and burro populations **grow** rapidly. Unmanaged herds can double in size every four years.

77

= 1,000 animals

mmm mmm

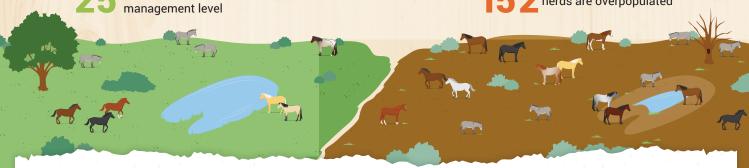
4 YEARS —

8 YEARS

12 YEARS

herds are at or below appropriate management level

152 herds are overpopulated



OVERPOPULATION

Overpopulated herds threaten land and herd health. Too many wild horses and burros can lead to:



Starvation and thirst for horses, burros and other wildlife



Less native vegetation and more invasive weeds, such as cheatgrass



More wild horses and burros on highways and private property in search of food and water

BLM SOLVING THE CHALLENGE

BLM continues to develop and implement new management tools while working with effective partners who share the goal of managing healthy wild horses and burros on healthy public rangelands.



Reduce Overpopulation

Use nonlethal means of gather and removal to achieve a herd size that is in balance with available resources and other uses of the land.



Implement Fertility Control

As herd size reaches appropriate levels, implement population growth suppression methods to slow growth.

BLM is investing in research to develop better fertility control methods and other management tools.



Find Good Homes & Provide Long-Term Care

For animals removed from the range, find good, private homes or provide long-term care on off-range pastures.



In an effort to find good homes for excess wild horses and burros, the BLM offers financial incentives to adopters of untrained animals. Visit *BLM.gov/Adoption-Incentive* to learn how to participate.

PRIVATE CARE AND OFF-RANGE PASTURES

There are two paths for excess wild horses and burros gathered from overpopulated herds:

Placement into Private Care

> 7,700
wild horses and burros
were adopted and sold
in Fiscal Year 2022

> 3,700

adopted through the Adoption Incentive Program

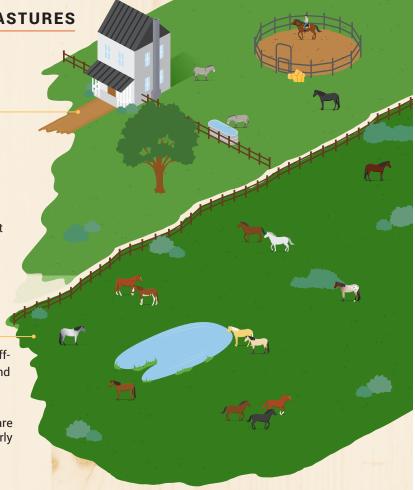
Rates of adoption and sales have historically not kept up with the growth of populations on the range. For wild horses not placed into a home through adoption or sale, the BLM provides lifetime care on an off-range pasture.



Off-Range Pastures

Most unadopted and unsold wild horses roam offrange pastures, which provide open space and long-term care.

Nearly 60,000 wild horses and burros are cared for in off-range facilities, including nearly 40,000 wild horses located on off-range pastures.



The BLM is committed to working with Congress, state and local governments, partner organizations and the public to find practical solutions to achieve healthy and sustainable populations of wild horses and burros on healthy public lands.



