

Advisory Board Recommendations to BLM and USFS

December 2023 Advisory Board Meeting

- 1) The board recommends that the BLM prioritize and complete the rulemaking/regulations updates and involve board members in the draft review process so that meaningful policy adjustments can be made.
- 2) In an effort to determine the effectiveness of BLM's sales and adoption programs and indicate changes in placement programs where needed, the Board recommends that the BLM follow up on a statistically significant percentage of wild horses and burros that have been placed or sold into private care over the last five years. The follow up should identify: year the horse(s)/burro(s) adopted/purchased; if the original adopter/owner still possess the animal(s); if the animal(s) were returned to BLM, transferred, sold, died; and the current use of the animal: pasture only, companion animal, riding, driving, pack animal, or in state/federal service.
- 3) The board recommends that the BLM and the USFS present at the next board meeting plans that determine ecosystem health and population stabilization by choosing two HMAs/Territories each and demonstrating how the PopEquus model can be utilized to attain desired management outcomes, as well as what those outcomes would be.
- 4) To take advantage of opportunities currently available to the Forest Service, the board recommends that the Chief of the Forest Service must advocate for a funded, multi-year budget line item to support the USFS Wild Horse and Burro Program. This should also include funds currently owed to the BLM for management/holding of USFS horses.
- 5) So that resources can be freed up for on-range management options, the Board recommends that the BLM request, as appropriate, that the BLM Foundation serve as a funding source/mechanism for off-range holding costs.