



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

NATIONAL WILD
HORSE & BURRO
PROGRAM

National
Motorized Vehicle
Hearing
Virtual Meeting

May 6, 2025

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

Contents

WELCOME & INTRODUCTIONS	2
OVERVIEW	3
VIRTUAL MEETING RULES	5
VERBAL PUBLIC COMMENT	6
CLOSING REMARKS.....	22

Tuesday, May 6, 2025, 1pm MT – Meeting Opens

Welcome & Introductions

Bryant Kuechle, Facilitator, The Langdon Group

Mr. Kuechle, serving as the meeting's facilitator, introduced himself and welcomed the attendees. He confirmed that the meeting now in session is the public hearing on the use of motorized vehicles in the management of wild horses and burros for the Bureau of Land Management. Mr. Kuechle explained that video and audio were disabled for members of the public, and that the meeting was being recorded. Captioning will be available on the recording and posted online. He noted that the opportunity to register to provide public comment was advertised in April, and all available slots have been filled. Anyone else wishing to provide a written comment must do so via email by 3 pm MT, May 6th. These comments should be addressed to the email provided in the chat box (BLM_HQ_MotorizedVehicleHearing@blm.gov). More details regarding the commenting process will be provided following a brief presentation by the Bureau of Land Management.

Bryant Kuechle: Ok, welcome everybody. We're gonna give it just a minute. We have some people still entering the meeting space, so we'll give them time to do that. Ok, let's go ahead and get started. Welcome, everybody. This is the virtual hearing on the use of motorized vehicles in the management of wild horses and burros. Welcome to this virtual public hearing on the Bureau of Land Management's use of motorized vehicles in the management of wild horses and burros. My name is Bryant Kuechle, I'm the third-party neutral facilitator from The Langdon Group for this virtual public hearing. Public is now joining, and we're about to get started. So, what I want to do is first go over a few announcements at the beginning, and then we'll turn it over to our presentation. The public is observing currently. Video and audio is off for members of the public. Live captions are available by clicking the more button, which appears as three dots and then selecting turn on live captions. If you need the live captions, there's also instructions here on the screen. The opportunity to register to provide public comment was advertised in April. All available slots have been filled. However, the opportunity to provide written comments exists through the conclusion of today's meeting at 3:00 PM Mountain Daylight Time of May 6th. Please send comments to the e-mail address you see on your screen. BLM_HQ_motorizedvehiclehearing@blm.gov. We will provide more specifics about the public comment process after a brief presentation by the BLM. A reminder, this meeting is being recorded and again closed captioning will be available on the recording posted online as well. First, I'd like to introduce Holle Waddell, Division Chief of the National Wild Horse and Burro program.

Holle Waddell: Thank you, Bryant, and welcome everyone to this public hearing on the use of motorized vehicles in the management of wild horses and burros. I'm so happy to see the turnout today and I know some people are still joining. I look forward to reviewing the comments that are provided during the comment period, as well as the written comments that were submitted by e-mail. To go over a short presentation on how BLM uses motorized vehicles in the Wild Horse and Burro Program, I will now turn it over to Dr. Paul Griffin, who is acting on Range Branch Chief for the Wild Horse and Burro Program. Paul?

Overview

Paul C. Griffin, Acting On-Range Branch Chief for the Bureau of Land Management's National Wild Horse and Burro Program

Paul C Griffin: Thank you. Good afternoon. My name is Paul Griffin. I'm the acting On-Range Branch Chief for the Bureau of Land Management's National Wild Horse and Burro Program. And with me today are Wild Horse and Burro Program State Leads, who are all authorized officers for this hearing from each of the state offices that manages wild horses and burros. So, I'm gonna call on each state and ask that the representative from that state turn on their camera and introduce themselves, and we'll go in alphabetical order, starting with Alaska.

Craig J Perham: Hello everyone. My name is Craig Perham, and I am the State Lead here for the state of Alaska.

Paul C Griffin: Thank you, Craig. Arizona?

John A Hall: Afternoon. John Hall, Arizona State Lead for the Wild Horse and Burro Program.

Paul C Griffin: Thank you, John. California?

Amy Dumas: Hello, my name is Amy Dumas. I am the Wild Horse and Burro State Lead for California.

Paul C Griffin: Thank you, Amy. Colorado?

Lynae B Rogers: Good afternoon, everyone. My name is Lynae Rogers. I am the Wild Horse and Burro Lead for the State of Colorado.

Paul C Griffin: Thank you, Lenae. Eastern states?

Krystal F Johnson: Hello everyone. I'm Krystal Johnson, Eastern States Wild Horse and Burro lead.

Paul C Griffin: Thanks Krystal. Idaho?

Peter A Torma: Hello, my name is Peter Torma, Idaho State Lead.

Paul C Griffin: Thanks, Peter. Montana?

Melissa A Foster: Hello, I'm Melissa Foster. I'm the State Lead for the Montana-Dakotas.

Paul C Griffin: Thanks, Melissa. New Mexico?

Pat B Williams: Good afternoon, everybody. I'm Pat Williams. I'm the Program Lead for the New Mexico region.

Paul C Griffin: Thanks, Pat. Nevada?

Ruth A Thompson: Hello, my name's Ruth Thompson. I'm the Nevada State Program Lead.

Paul C Griffin: Thank you, Ruth. Oregon?

Emily K Lent: Hi everyone. I'm Emily Lent. I'm the Oregon Program Lead.

Paul C Griffin: Thank you, Emily. And Utah?

Victor (Gus) Warr: Hey everybody, this is Gus Warr. I'm the Wild Horse and Burro Program Manager for Utah. Thanks for joining us today.

Paul C Griffin: Thank you, Gus. And Wyoming?

June A Wendlandt: Hi, this is June Wendlandt, Wyoming, Nebraska, Wild Horse and Burro State Lead.

Mr. Griffin called the meeting to order. He shared the following information about the responsibility of the Bureau of Land Management, and the purpose of the Wild Horse and Burro Program and the standards of treatment and welfare for animals:

Paul C Griffin: Thank you, June. Well, on behalf of all of us here at the BLM, thank you for participating virtually today. This public hearing will now come to order. As Bryant mentioned, before we get to the public comment period, I'm going to share some information about the BLM's use of motorized vehicles in the management of wild horses and burros. The BLM has the responsibility to manage and protect wild horses and burros on certain areas of public lands, as stated in the Wild Free Roaming Horses and Burros Act of 1971. In addition to managing wild populations on public lands, the BLM also manages wild horses and burros off the range in corrals and pastures and at other off-site events like adoptions, as the BLM works to place animals into private care. As part of its administration of the Wild Free Roaming Horses and Burros Act, another law, the Federal Land Policy and Management Act of 1976, authorized the BLM to use motorized vehicles. Federal regulation 4740.1 requires a public hearing to be held on such use every year, and that is the purpose of this hearing today. Before I go into the different uses of motorized vehicles, I want to explain that the actions you're going to hear about are guided by the BLM's commitment to humane treatment standards included in our Comprehensive Animal Welfare Program for wild horses and burros. The BLM developed these standards included in the Comprehensive Animal Welfare Program, in collaboration with animal welfare experts from the School of Veterinary Medicine at the University of California, Davis and the US Department of Agriculture's Animal Plant Health Inspection Service, Veterinary Services. These humane handling practices are in place for wild horse and burro gather operations, transportation, and care at public events and in all off-range corrals. To monitor compliance with the standards, the BLM conducts internal assessments of gathers, events and facilities, and the results of those assessments can be found on our website at BLM.gov/whb/animalwelfare. Now I'll give you some context to BLM's use of motor vehicles. The BLM uses motorized vehicles in a variety of ways to help manage wild horses and burros. Trucks with trailers are used to move animals from trap sites at gathers to corral facilities, and from corral facilities to other facilities and off-site events for

adoption and sale activities. Pickup trucks and utility vehicles may be used for monitoring or other activities associated with managing wild horses and burros, such as conducting fertility control operations, delivering supplies and bringing hay and water to animals. Vehicles are also used to transport BLM and contractor personnel. Tractors, loaders or skid steers are used to move supplies like hay and water or panels for pens. The BLM may use helicopters or fixed wing aircraft to conduct population surveys or to determine locations of wild horses and burros on public lands for management. As herds outgrow resources available to them on public lands, the BLM may also use helicopters to help gather large numbers of animals across rugged terrain, normally as a guide to bring animals into established traps. With that information, this hearing will now move to the public comment segment, and I'll turn it back over to Bryant to go over some guidelines. State Leads, please stay on for the whole meeting, but you can keep your cameras off and I'm going to turn mine off soon, too.

Virtual Meeting Rules

Bryant Kuechle, Facilitator, The Langdon Group

Mr. Kuechle reviewed the procedural guidelines which would be observed throughout the meeting, noting that these same rules were published prior to the meeting and could be seen on the current screen.

Bryant Kuechle: Thank you, Paul. So, for this virtual hearing, we'll observe several procedural guidelines, some of which are outlined in the rules that you reviewed prior to registration. I will go over those procedures now. Those wishing to deliver public comment must have indicated so when they registered for this meeting. Registration is now closed. I will call upon speakers in the order of registration. Those wishing to speak during this hearing must have registered through the link on our website. Speakers will address their comments via audio only. To allow for the maximum number of individuals to express their viewpoints, speakers must finish their comments in a designated time of two minutes. We ask that all attendees must show mutual respect for each other and the BLM. Speakers must not exhibit unprofessional conduct or use inappropriate language such as profanity, cursing or swearing. If any of this occurs, or if any if there's any targeted attacks towards BLM or any other person by name, I will mute, and we'll move on to the next speaker. Please keep comments relevant to the topic of using motorized vehicles to manage wild horses and burros. Additionally, as mentioned, speakers will be called in order of registration. If there are more people wishing to provide comment who did not previously register, written comments can be submitted by 3:00 Mountain Time today. Violating or disregarding any of the rules may result in being muted or removal from the meeting. The BLM appreciates the public's cooperation to maintain these rules for the benefit of all involved. The BLM will not respond to comments or questions made during the public comment period. This should not be interpreted to mean that BLM agrees or disagrees with anything said. The meeting is being recorded. If you do not wish to be recorded, please submit your comments in writing via e-mail. The process will go, I will announce who is up first and who is on deck. If you run short on time, your time cannot be given to another speaker. When you begin, please state your name and who you are representing and your location. You will see that two-minute countdown timer. I will provide a warning as needed. If you are on the phone, the timer may not be viewable, and I will prompt you when you have 30 seconds left. And again, the reminder we will control the mute as warranted. So, let's go ahead and begin. Again, we're going to go in the order of registration and bear with me because I do need to find you in the list here. We're going to begin with Laura Leigh. And then on deck will be Tammi Adams. So, Laura. I'd allow- you should be able to unmute yourself and begin speaking. Let's try this again. So, it should be. Your microphone should be accessible.

Verbal Public Comment

Bryant Kuechle, Facilitator, The Langdon Group

Laura Leigh: Can you hear me?

Bryant Kuechle: Yep, we can hear you now. Thank you, Laura.

Laura Leigh: Cool.

Bryant Kuechle: You can begin when you're ready.

Laura Leigh: My name is Laura Leigh, a resident of Nevada. I am President and Founder of Wild Horse Education. I have never seen a single deliberative response document to any of these hearings. These hearings are non-discretionary and do not even obtain the response that a legally required nondiscretionary hearing would provide. This hearing gives me two minutes. We have provided written comments. For 17 years, I myself have documented repetitive conduct where misuse of the helicopter has caused injury and death. Where dangerous air quality from wildfire, smoke and heat index rises are simply dismissed and the results are tragic injuries. Dirty trailers, rush loading, creates dangerous situations, causing injuries and even the use of ATV's during capture. Recently, I was on the range when a survey helicopter created panic near a long-neglected cattle guard. We were there to prevent horses from running onto a highway. But it seems no one really cares. There seems to be this us and them mindset in the agency and personnel would rather ignore any advocate than take public concerns with policy and practice seriously and provide us with the respect needed, with some type of responsive document to these hearings. Every gather plan that purportedly analyzes the action of gather in a site-specific fashion as required by NEPA, cites these annual hearings as fulfilling compliance to an analysis requirement of the physical action of gather. Yet, no analysis document is ever provided to the public. BLM seems to have created a web to pass the buck from CAWP to gather plans to these national mandatory hearings. But the public never gets an analysis of this action, revisions to policy or anything that seems to provide us with respect and the horses and burros with respect. BLM cannot simply continue to sweep this issue under the rug. Continued abuses of the use of motorized vehicles must be addressed directly, sufficiently and respectfully. BLM-

Bryant Kuechle: Thank you very much, Laura. We're going to move on to Tammi Adams and then Laurie Ford will be on deck. So, Tammi, bear with me. Ok, Tammi, you should be able to unmute yourself and begin when you're ready. Tammi, if you're-

Tammi Adams: Oh, there we go. Can you hear me? Sorry about that.

Bryant Kuechle: No problem.

Tammi Adams: New computer, too many things to push buttons on, I apologize for that. Okay. Good day, I'm Tammi Adams. I'm with Wild Horse Education. I've been providing testimony since 2020 for this national helicopter and motorized vehicle hearings under Section 404 of FLPMA. Every gather EA uses these hearings to comply with the analysis of the action of gather, yet BLM's lack of response to these

non-discretionary hearings may invalidate every BLM gather EA. Not one single helicopter drive gather plan analyzes the impacts of rounding up horses and burros on the horses and burros rounded up. The Wild Free Roaming Horses and Burros Act makes it a crime for anyone to harass or kill wild horses or burros on federal lands. Prohibited acts are negligently harassing wild horses and burros, which make that a federal crime. In end of April, we took videos here of a peaceful setting when we heard a helicopter, the horse band started to group together just like they do during a roundup and started to move, heading for an operational cattle guard, which they could enter the highway, injuring possibly both wild horses and the public. We contacted BLM. They were aware of the survey but didn't seem very concerned and said they had no jurisdiction over the USGS helicopter. The helicopter flew back and forth grid over the valley floor, framing the mountain ridges repetitively confusing the horses, kept running for over an hour and a half. We documented the horses, newborn foals and heavily pregnant mares moving across when the chopper was even out of sight. The pilot of the low flying helicopter certainly witnessed the chaos and the harassment and didn't vary his flight path, nor the distance from the backs of the wild horses being harassed. Let's not forget USGS is a sister agency of the BLM, under the DOI, they also researched and developed quantifying equid behavior for the BLM. They certainly know wild horse behavior and signs of panics. The Wild Horse and Burro Act, Section 1340, directs the Secretary of the Interior to coordinate the activities of their respective departments. This was-

Bryant Kuechle: Thank you, Tammi. We're going to go to Laurie Ford followed by Carol Nicholson. Laurie, you should be able to unmute yourself and begin. This-

Laurie Ford: Is that, is that it? Can you hear me?

Bryant Kuechle: Yep, you got it.

Laurie Ford: Oh, ok, this is different. Ok Laurie Ford with Wild Horse Education. This is for the burros. Due to their unique physical and behavioral characteristics, burros are more prone to stress induced deaths triggered by helicopter roundups. When comparing mortality rates occurring within 40 days of capture, FOIAs have shown a 700% difference between helicopter and bait and trap gathers. These FOIAs included data on 1,314 adult burros from three separate bait and trap gathers and 1,317 burros from three separate helicopter gathers. The death rate from the bait and trap gathers was 1.1%. The death rate from the helicopter gathers was 7.7%. 15% of all pregnant jennies gathered died from hyperlipidemia. Of 541 burros gathered in the Bullfrog bait and trap removal, the death rate was .73%. Of 360 burros gathered in the Blue Wing helicopter roundup, the death rate was 9.1%. 12.8% of all pregnant jennies gathered died from hyperlipidemia. Stress can also reactivate dormant strains of the herpes virus, similar to what happened in the recent Canyonlands roundup and the 2016 Sinbad burro roundup. Physical stress may cause capture myopathy with the initial signs being lameness or stiffness in limbs, often grounds for euthanization. It's obvious helicopter roundups are the initial event triggering stress-induced mortality, and BLM must recognize these deaths as gather related. A public response would be appreciated. Thank you.

Bryant Kuechle: Thank you, Laurie. Let's see, we're going to go to Carol Nicholson. Colette Kaluza is on deck. So, we have a Carol in our meeting room here, I'm going to allow Carol to speak, assuming this is Carol Nicholson, and you can begin when you're ready. So, Carol, if you're able to unmute yourself you should be able to begin. There should be an icon of a microphone that you can click to toggle on and

off from you. Carol, we'll come back and see if we can't get you connected here in a moment. Let's go to Colette. Okay, Colette, you should be able to unmute yourself and begin when you're ready. We'll have Rebecca Falk on deck. So, Colette there should be an icon of a microphone that you can click to enable your microphone.

Holle Waddell: Hey, Bryant. I don't know if you can see the hand from a Marie?

Bryant Kuechle: I do see a couple hands up. I see Carol's hand up, the chat is disabled right now so let's try to see if we can connect with these folks. Colette, I do have you now. You can begin when you're ready, Colette.

Colette Kaluza: Colette Kaluza for Wild Horse Education, Welfare Team Assistant Director. I'm giving first person testimony on wild horses and burro gathers and removals by BLM. I have documented the repeated needless suffering, injuries and death of these animals. BLM and CAWP coordinator do not acknowledge or respond to my comments, documentation, reports, the issues, and the mistreatment continues year after year. In brief- foals, pregnant mares, weak horses are helicopter driven in conditions of mud, heat, cold, smoke are not taken into consideration. Helicopter drive gathers occur during foaling season. Foals are being left behind on the range. Helicopter's drive bans to trap, even though a foal is under three months old. BLM has failed to consider current and veterinary standards adopted a decade ago for heat index and Air Quality Index. For example, at the Blue Wing gather on July 12th and 13 the heat index was over 70 when young and old horses need extra cooling time. And rose well above 90 when even performance grade horses struggle to regulate heat during even mild exertion. This event lasted eight days, where nighttime heat index did not even provide relief. These factors were not considered. The gather was not paused and concluded 17 days ahead of schedule. Captured horses are being loaded from trap site onto stock trailers, unsorted, bisected, unloaded, reloaded onto a semi-truck and stand for hours in the heat before being driven to temporary holding corral and unloaded. BLM misaligning the floor of the semi-truck with the loading chute create gaps and risk like injury. Helicopters fly so dangerously close to horses that one hit the ground and crashed. BLM did not review or make recommendations to ensure this did not happen again. Helicopters drive horses relentlessly and to exhaustion and make countless failed attempts at trap. Some traps are repeatedly used, for example, seven days, causing animals to travel far. Traps with sharp turns combined with helicopter dust up, create added risks. Stock trailers are driven carelessly and fast. Floors are dirty-

Bryant Kuechle: Thank you, Colette. So, Carol, looks like we, I see your hand up. We're going to give it a shot here and go to you next. So, Carol Nicholson and then we'll have Rebecca Falk on deck. So, Carol? You should be able to unmute yourself and begin. Ok, Carol, we might try to have one of our IT folks to see if we can't reach out to you and help you out if you're having some technical difficulties, you should be able to just click the microphone to unmute. Ok, I'm going to turn your microphone off for now and we'll try to come back to that. We'll go to Rebecca Falk, followed by Janine Dallow. So, Rebecca, you should be able to unmute yourself and begin. You had your microphone on there for a second, Rebecca.

Rebecca Falk: There, am I there?

Bryant Kuechle: Yep.

Rebecca Falk: Alright, Hi, my name is Rebecca Falk and I'm from Kansas. I care about our wild horses and burros and as an American I believe I should have the right to have a say about what happens to them. I have testified at least three times now on the vehicle hearing. I am very appreciative there is a hearing on this issue every year, but I am disappointed after the hearing. There's no comments or rulings on what was discussed at the hearing. As some would say, BLM is just going through the motions, and no outcome will come of this hearing. Hearing comments need to be in an analysis document. The document our decisions at the meeting need to be made to the public. If documents are not open to the public, then BLM is violating NEPA and its principles. As an American taxpayer, I deserve to know what is happening to our wild horses and burros. First, helicopters need to go away. In the original Wild Horse and Burro Act of 1971, they were not even considered. In fact, humane was in the captions an awful lot in the Act. But in 1976, helicopters were introduced to round up horses. Maybe back then it was the only way to take care of our wild horses and burros. But now, the time is to stop cruel roundups by helicopters is now. Sadly, wild horses and burros are disappearing. There are more wild horses and burros in holding than there are out there on the range. So, for that reason alone, helicopters should not be used. If a roundup has to happen, then bait and trap only. Helicopters are not necessary anymore. Every time there's a roundup, wild horses and burros die. Helicopters are very expensive, and the helicopter rounds have cost a lot of loss to wild horses and burros, causing young foals being trampled, stallions jumping over panels and breaking their leg to get the herd, mares that are pregnant and dying from exhaustion. BLM needs to start making a better welfare policy- observing each herd and making sure it is not their foaling season. I hate to hear about all the stories, of all these poor little orphan foals that are being seen because a roundup was taken place because it was their foaling season.

Bryant Kuechle: Thank you, Rebecca. Let's see. We're going to go to Janine Dallow, followed by Karen Maple. Ok, Janine, you should be able to unmute yourself and begin.

Janine Dallow: Hi, can you hear me?

Bryant Kuechle: I can.

Janine Dallow: Ok, hi, my name is Janine Dallow, and I live in California. I began documenting wild horse roundups last year. So far, I've attended 4. The first one I went to was the North Lander roundup in Wyoming. And I was pretty upset at what I saw the helicopters, we wouldn't see them for quite a while, sometimes over an hour. And then after a while, you could hear a buzz off in the distance and then even at that point it would take another 45 minutes, perhaps, until that helicopter came into view. And way off in the distance, I don't know how far, because there was no accountability, there was nobody telling us. You'd see the smoke of the horses, the dust of the horses running at full speed and then they'd come into view and what I learned at that roundup is that the horses are run very far. It's not natural, horses out in the wild, I'm out observing them quite a bit, they don't run at full speed for such long distances. They don't run as a herd. The way the helicopter works is he'll go find one band, push him to another band, push him to another, and then in the end you've got this crazy stampeding herd of horses. It's not healthy for the horses, it's not healthy for the pregnant mares. I don't know if you're aware, but foals when they're born, their hooves are soft, and I've heard that they run their feet off. I've been to Twin Peaks. When I was there, I witnessed the nine horses fall out of the back of the trailer, after they'd gone through

the whole trauma of being captured. And then they tried to get away. They made their way up a hill and the helicopter came back and chased those injured horses once again. It's got to stop.

Bryant Kuechle: Thank you, Janine. So, we're going to go to Karen Maple, followed by Margaret Meyer. Not seeing Karen in the room right now. So if we're able to come back to anybody that was missed, that joins before 3:00, we will do that. We'll go to Margaret Meyer, followed by Deborah Clemente. Hey, Margaret, you should be able to unmute and begin.

Margaret Meyer: Hello, can you hear me?

Bryant Kuechle: I can.

Margaret Meyer: Ok, my name is Margaret Meyer. I'm from California. I have a few concerns. I am kind of new to trying to document these roundups and I've been able to find very little information on these meetings- that they happen, but what the results of them are and how all the comments that people are giving are considered and weighed. I literally can't find a transcript anywhere online. Things that I have learned is that horses can safely run 2 miles at maximum speed and that is typically for no more than 10 minutes. These horses are run much longer. I understand that the BLM has a guideline about when they should do these roundups, and that specifically the foaling season March to June is to be avoided, but here we are talking about a roundup to happen in May and there are foals out on the range. I don't understand why you would violate your own policies. Additionally, cost is a big expense right now. Everybody is looking at cost and it is about \$1000 an animal to round up by helicopter. Bait and trap, which is much less traumatizing, much safer, is half that cost. This is a fiscal irresponsibility. And then there is the hazard to the pilots as well. When they get in this poor air quality during round ups, the horses are impacted, but so are the human beings. And there is about a 30% increase to respiratory disease from what I have seen for the human beings. I don't understand the proper management of this for the animals, the humans or a correct reporting of fiscal and policy to the public. I am a taxpayer. I am a concerned citizen, and I would appreciate a clear documented response. Thank you.

Bryant Kuechle: Thank you, Margaret. We're going to go to Deborah Clemente, followed by Sonya Richins. Deborah, go right ahead.

Debra Clemente: Ok, I think it's unmuted now, correct?

Bryant Kuechle: Correct.

Debra Clemente: Ok. Deborah Clemente from New Jersey. Every year the advocates speak on the hearing results and are not known to us or any changes to the management of our federally protected wild horses and burros. I have in previous years spoken about the air index quality, the heat, the freezing, the cold, the ice, the concern over the foals, the mares, the seniors, the chase for miles that are not known to us or made public. The rough terrain, the speeding trailers, the heat in the trailer, the lack of care in shutting the door, the Hotshots in the trailers, the ATVs to run on the range to rope and crushing foliage and disturbing other animals. CAWP is not completed and enforceable program. There's no accountability. I oppose the use of motorized vehicles, and all the millions spent and the management with fertility of

PZP only should be more of the focus. Blue Wing, there was 42 deaths. The mare was kicked by the contractor. South Steens was 28 deaths and many horses, foals, were limping, lame, sore, harsh from 2 helicopter roundups, which was pretty much the standard last year- 2 helicopters. And the deaths were not included on your Roundup schedule. There was many information, but not anything about the deaths. Thank you.

Bryant Kuechle: Thank you, Deborah. Ok, so up next will be Sonya Richins followed by Crystal McKenna. I don't see Sonya, if you're in and again, if somebody's here that's under a different name, other than what we have in the registration list, you can use the raise hand function if you are indeed that person and we can find you that way. So, we'll move on to Crystal McKenna, followed by Saundra Holloway. I'm not seeing Crystal either, uh Saundra. I do see Saundra here, so we'll go to Saundra Holloway, followed by Emmy Hayes. Saundra, you can unmute yourself and begin when you're ready. So, Saundra, you should be able to begin. If you can unmute yourself. I see your hand up, Saundra. Your mic is enabled, so if you can click the microphone icon it should unmute yourself. There you go.

Saundra Holloway: Oh, there I am. You can hear me, ok?

Bryant Kuechle: I can, yes.

Saundra Holloway: Thank you. Good afternoon. My name is Saundra Holloway. I'm an Arizona resident, a U.S. citizen and a taxpayer. I speak today in memory of Echo, the Pryor range Wild Horse. I have a deep and abiding interest in the way our wild horses and burros are managed and treated by the government. I strongly oppose the use of helicopters for the roundups of our wild horses and burros. Subsection 2B of the Wild Free Roaming Horses and Burros Act states specifically that excess wild free roaming horses and burros to be humanely captured. A directive for humane management, as mentioned in no less than seven times in that document. I will also bring to your attention again that just last year one of your contractors was caught on video kicking a down horse in the head. Yet, you continue to use this contractor. This is abuse, not management. Running horses to injury and or death is far from humane and kicking them while they are down is unacceptable. There have been horrific deficits in the handling of wild horses and burros across the American West that is deeply disturbing to me. These deficits often involve the use of motorized vehicles during and after capture. Foals are run to collapse in summer heat. Wild horses run through barbed wire, and wild horses run into an extreme weather in winter. Heavily pregnant mares have been reported to have late term miscarriages and at least one mare was run as she aborted her foal. None of this is humane treatment. Helicopter review should be restricted in all but extreme emergency, say, as in the presence of a wildfire. Motorized vehicles should only be used after bait and trapping is proven unsuccessful. Wild horses are prey animals, and during roundups they are literally running for their lives. Horses should not be chased by a helicopter for more than five miles as the horse runs, not as the crow flies, and helicopters should not chase or move horses faster than the slowest of the group. In addition to improving on site public observation, install real time cameras on all helicopters and live stream the video. I thank you today for taking my public comment, year after year after year.

Bryant Kuechle: So, I see a hand up of Ace Clark. Ace, I'm going to assume that you are one of the people that I've stated a name for previously, and you're just here under a different name. So, I'll allow

you to speak and then we'll go to Emma Hayes. And if you can state your name Ace, and assuming that you are one of the those people that I've stated the name of.

Ashley Clark: Hello, my name is Ashley Clark and I'm a concerned citizen from the state of New Hampshire. I really love animal-

Bryant Kuechle: Ok. Ashley, I apologize for that, but I don't see your name on the registration list. We'll double-check the list to see if you indeed did register for comment. Ok, we're going to go to Emma. Emmy Hayes. And I don't see Emmy here. So, we're gonna go to Heather Mills is next. I do see a Brian Hayes, however, sorry about that. So we'll...nope, sorry, that is not not in this meeting. Apologize for that. So let's see, Heather Mills. I'm not seeing Heather in this meeting either. So, we'll go to Peggy Oyer. And not seeing Peggy here either. Cheryl Nelson is next on our list. Ok, I'm not seeing Cheryl. Andrea Dunlap. Ok, bear with me as I check names here. I do see a Meg Hayes with a hand up. Again, you had to have registered for this public comment period. If you are somebody whose name I've called and you're here under a different name, I'll unmute you and let you begin. But if indeed you are not registered for this comment, we will mute you. So, we'll go ahead. Meg Young, I'll allow you to speak. Go ahead and begin when you're ready and state your name. So Meg Young is the name listed on the Teams.

Meg Young: Hi can everybody, this is Meg. Can everybody hear me?

Bryant Kuechle: Yes, Meg, can you state your name?

Meg Young: Hi yes, my name is Meg Young and I'm a resident of Carbondale, Colorado.

Bryant Kuechle: Meg, did you sign up for the public comment period?

Meg Young: Well, is signing up for the public comment period the same as signing up for this webinar?

Bryant Kuechle: Yes, but you there was a place to indicate if you wanted to provide comment or not. And I'm just not seeing your name as somebody who commented. I'm going to mute you right now. We'll double-check our list and if we're able to, and it does show that you registered for comment, we'll come back to you. Ok, where were we? I believe we checked Andrea Dunlap last and Andrea was not here. Kelly Straub is after, is next on the list. Jeneen Beckett. Ok, Jeneen, I see that you're here. I'm going to unmute you. So, Jeneen Beckett, it's your opportunity to provide comment and then we'll go to Tracy Airway after that. Janine, you should be able to unmute yourself and begin.

Jeneen Beckett: Can you hear me?

Bryant Kuechle: I can.

Jeneen Beckett: Yes, it's Jeneen Beckett. I am a resident of Ohio. My father was a lawyer. I'm very concerned that the law is very clear about the way these horses should be treated, and I think it's an underlying attitude in this country, especially out West, that came from the cattlemen, that these are just, you know, nuisance animals in the way of their grazing rights. Animal treatment is like their nuisances.

And I'd like to see more transparency. I would like to see a transcript of this sent to anybody who is on this list. You've got our e-mail addresses. The way those horses are being handled is just so horrendous. There's not even words for it. Anybody who's been around animals, the animals live in families. Everything that everybody else has already said, I can't just say it over again. So I think the helicopters need to be done- banned, and if you need to have any kind of surveillance, there's things like drones that might be much less harmful to the animals. The way that they're run, it's just awful. They're breaking legs, they're under horrible terrain and my problem is, if you don't know that and you're the professionals, it's....was it Sinclair Upton who said you can't- it's hard to convince somebody to do something that's that they need to do, something like that, if their livelihood depends on it. And I see money, I see helicopter people making up to \$1,000,000. It's very much a money game for the people that are doing this. It's very bad for the animals and the law clearly says you can't harm them, and you can't, and they have to be humanely treated and what everybody's testimony is saying it's not. There's no transparency, and that's a law that you have to give us some response, some answer to these all these attitudes and, and questions that are being brought. And we want to know how you're going to send us back response, please. Thank you for your service at the BLM, for anybody that's here at this meeting. Thank you for the amazing workmanship.

Bryant Kuechle: Thank you, Jeneen. Ok, so Tracy Erway is up next, followed by Jean Poublee. Ok, so I'm not seeing Tracy here. We're going to go to Jean Poublee followed by Elizabeth Robison. Ok, so, Jean, you should be able to begin when you're ready. So, I've given you the ability to unmute yourself, Jean. So, if you're there and you're listening, you can click the microphone to unmute yourself. Ok, so Jean just give you maybe another chance and we can come back to you and see if we're able to figure it out. Again, just you should be able to unmute yourself. Ok, we're going to go ahead and move on to Elizabeth Robison, followed by Christina Patrick. Alright, Elizabeth, you should be able to unmute yourself and begin when you're ready. Ok, Elizabeth, can you unmute yourself and begin when you're ready? Looks like your hand is up, Elizabeth. So yeah, we're giving you the ability to press the microphone and unmute. Alright, we're going to try, we'll come back to you, Elizabeth. We're going to try Christina Patrick. Ok, I don't see Christina Patrick in our room here. So, we'll go to Martha Zimmet and Dina Dargo will be up next. Ok, I don't see Martha here. So, we'll go to Dina Dargo followed by Kristy Valasquez, Valasquez. We got, so Christy doesn't appear to be here. We're going to go to Dina Moore, followed by Hope Cruiser. Ok, I don't see Dina or Hope here. Next, we'll go to Nancy Pruitt, followed by Brian Coffey. Ok, Bryan Coffey, I see you there. So, we'll go to Bryan Coffey. Jessica Thein will be on deck. So, Bryan I'll unmute you, you can begin when you're ready. Ok, Bryan, I've given you the ability to unmute yourself, so you should be able to do that and begin your comment. Ok, we'll come back to you, Brian. See if we can't get you on in a moment. So, I'm going to disable your microphone for a moment and we'll go to Jessica Thein, followed by Michelle Keys. Ok, so it doesn't look like Michelle's here either. So we'll go to Sharon Meagher, followed by Christine Richardson. Ok, so Christine Richardson, I see you here. So we'll go to well, I'll do Christine Richardson, followed by Willie Guerree. So, Chris, Christine, you can begin when you're ready. Should be able to unmute yourself. Ok, Christine Richardson, if you're here in the room and listening, if you click on the microphone, you should be able to disable your microphone and begin speaking.

Christine Richardson: Am I on?

Bryant Kuechle: You are.

Christine Richardson: Oh, good. Hi, my name is Christine Richardson. I'm from New York. I'm going to have a hard time saying it without crying, but in the past two months I have rescued 80 horses from horse slaughter. 80 horses from BLM that have been turned into kill pens. Now, I don't understand what goes on here because I am new to this, but I have just started in the past six months, and I want you to know that I've read every one of your laws. Since 1971, 300,000 horses have been killed. You guys, in the last, and I have every single documentation from every single roundup. Twin Peaks 2022, deaths public reported by BLM was 31, revealed were 69, a total of 100. 14 young foals have died from extreme heat exhaustion. Everything that everybody says here is true. I don't understand why we don't get any information after this and this is my first one. A 3-month-old Philly came into Twin Peaks on 7/31/22. These horses are running for their lives. These horses are prey, as if to everybody else who has spoke, I am with them. I could go on and on, but I only get 2 minutes. Your slaughter pens, your stock trailers, your motor vehicles, the way that they are treated, the way they behave. There's no alternative. Every single one of your BLM laws, every single thing, 3.1. Everything I've read 3.1.2, there are no options. Everything says no alternative, no alternative, no alternative. So, you don't even have an alternative for what you're doing, and I don't understand why there's no response on that and why you guys are not held accountable for the laws that you say that you uphold. It says right in there in your BLM that you are not allowed to slaughter or no-release any slaughter pens, but yet I just rescued 80 horses, over \$90,000 in two months that I got out of kill-pens from BLM. So, with your helicopter roundup and all your lies, I don't understand how you continue to operate the way that you do. There's no response. There's no way to even say anything to anybody. Everything that you do is a lie. Everything that I've seen is a lie. And I'm just starting. I want you to know that I will hold everybody accountable here.

Bryant Kuechle: Ok, thank you, Christine. We're going to go to Willie Guerree, and I apologize if I mispronounce anybody's name. And then after that, we'll go to Marie Milliman. And just a reminder to everybody, we are working through the list and it's a pretty extensive list of people that indicated they wanted to provide comment and we're doing it in the order that comments were received. So, if your hand is up and you did register for comment, we will get to you. So, there's not necessary to raise your hand. If your hand is up and you did not register to provide comment, but you only registered to view the meeting, then we will not be going to you for comment. We have a long list of people that did indicate they wanted to register and we will be working through those. Ok, going to go to, let's see here. Let me attempt really quick. So, Jeneen Beckett, you have your hand up, and I believe we attempted to get you on earlier and were unable to. So, I will go to you, Jeneen, to see if we can't get that, get you to work. You should be able to begin speaking, Jeneen. And if you did provide comment and I'm mistaken, please let me know.

Jeneen Beckett: Hi, I actually did, but I think you've got a technical problem because even when I tried to get on earlier, um you know were saying my mic was on, but my mic was not. My son works in this industry, I don't know. He works for Teams, actually. So, um...

Bryant Kuechle: Ok, we have an IT team here. I'll coordinate with IT team and then we'll try to get a message out with instructions on how to do it. I appreciate the information.

Jeneen Beckett: Well, I mean you can.

Bryant Kuechle: Ok, we're going to look for Willie. Willie, I don't see you here, so we're going to double check, ok. Marie Milliman. Marie Milliman is up next, followed by Eunice Quintanilla. Marie, I see you, and you should be able to unmute yourself and begin.

Marie Milliman: Is that good?

Bryant Kuechle: That's good.

Marie Milliman: Alrighty then, Marie Milliman, representing Wild Horse Education. Over the last seven years, I have witnessed multiple roundups annually involving motorized vehicles in multiple states while documenting in detail how the use of motorized vehicles consistently violates the safety and well-being of our valued public resource. We are independent observers in document compliance within our limited ability to observe distance, et cetera, or even failure to observe. Unfortunately, BLM, its employees and contractors prioritize the number of animals captured, handled, loaded and transported at a dangerous rate of speed, which results in a blatant disregard for the animal's safety. The rest rate at which horses were loaded at a trap site to be transported to a temporary holding site resulted in the stock trailer doors not being secured and horses falling out of the moving trailer. The helicopters are piloted in a chaotic, rushed manner that results in fractured groups requiring multiple attempts for them to enter the trap with a heightened sense of panic, resulting in avoidable injuries and deaths. The helicopter habitually moves the animals at a rate of speed, not allowing the slowest animal in the group to maintain the pace of the more physically capable animals, exacerbating the panic and exhaustion of the weakest animal animals. The routine, exhaustive. Multiple pursuit and roping of solo horses is completely unnecessary and the BLM should enforce and correct this violation of CAWP. Horses arrive at temp holding with facial, leg and other body fresh injuries that obviously occurred in trap or in transport. The lack of utilizing the official heat index, including air quality and condition of the horses in the gather process, is a clear indication that BLM is not progressing on their gather protocol. We have witnessed barbed wire draped with jute at the entrance of the trap. Barbed wire used for a barrier to drive to the trap. Foals and horses run to exhaustion with the national CAWP team in attendance and no mention in their published report. Thank you for the opportunity to speak today. I strongly request that my time and efforts to not be in vain on behalf of our treasured resource.

Bryant Kuechle: Thank you, Marie. Let's see one tip I want to provide everyone as far as your unmuting. If you're on a computer, you need to make sure that the correct microphone is selected in Teams. It may be that you have more than one microphone enabled on your machine, so you can click on the down carrot next to the microphone and select the device you want to use. And also reminder to sometimes headphones and headsets have their own manual mute switch. So, if you're using headset or headphones or headset, that may be a mute selection there. Ok, so up next, let's see we have Eunice Vitala. Or Eunice, I apologize. And I don't see Eunice here. And then we have, I believe it's Arabella Sorell. And again, I apologize if I'm mispronouncing anybody's name. I don't see. We may have that person here. Let me see. We'll check. So I see an Isbell, so I'm going to unmute J Isbell. I think this might be the person. And then we will go to Alexandria Travis. So if this is last name Sorell with the first name possibly Isbell, I'll allow

you to speak and you can get in when you're ready. Should be able to unmute yourself. J Isbell? Ok, we're going to move to Alexandra Travis, followed by Gloria Venner. Ok, doesn't appear that either of them are here. Adriana Mestas followed by Elise Lorweth. Ok, one more tip for everybody regarding the unmuting of the unmute button on your name is not where you want to unmute, it's going to be the unmute button at the top of the interface, not by your name. So that's at the top of your screen. Across the top there's a microphone there, so that'll be the appropriate place to unmute yourself. Alright. I don't see either of those names here. We're going to go to Gene Ashcroft, if Gene is here. I don't see Gene Ashcroft. Ok, Lin Bout, followed by Barry Lee. Ok, Barry Lee? Not seeing you here as well. So, the next two names on our list, Sarah Nadolsky, followed by Lynn Joyner. Ok, it doesn't appear Sarah or Lin have joined the meeting. We're going to go to Shari Friedenrich, followed by Joanna Henshaw. So, I see Shari. I see you here. Going to open your microphone. Should work. Shari, you should be able to begin when you're ready.

Shari Friedenrich: Alright, just one thought before I start. If you read off three or four at once, it would really help people prepare before you start. So just an administrative item and then let me know you're ready to have me start.

Bryant Kuechle: Alright. I appreciate that. You can begin when you're ready.

Shari Friedenrich: All right. Well, good, good afternoon. My name is Shari Friedenrich. I am a very concerned citizen and I'm also a public official, very disappointed in the lack of transparency for these. This is my second time testifying, and public meetings should have minutes. They should have recordings. We do live in the age of technology. These should not be items that should prohibit transparency for the public and that is what the intent is. Secondly, the most important thing you talked about up front was the humane treatment of animals. What I've heard and what I've seen, what is there is not humane treatment. You helped the animal welfare experts from UC Davis. I'm here in California. Sorry, I meant to mention that. Obviously, they either haven't seen any of these because it is horrific. The animal abuse that's happening when you take full families, it's like taking a person who is in a house, you take them out of the house, their whole family, grandparents to the infants, and you run them down the street with a motorcycle and you expect them all to go at the highest speed. This is animal abuse, and unfortunately it's being paid for by taxpayer dollars. Each one of us here on the line are contributing to the dollars that are funding BLM, so we really would request that we follow the rules. We're not asking do not follow the rules. We're just asking that you have humane treatment. Helicopters were never allowed until the motorized and it was never intended to actually just track these families down and herds down and mix them up. It was just like technology, to help us benefit from the youth of those to get horses from one place to the other. Perhaps, but not to have this animal abuse caused. In addition, you know, DOGE is really going in and making cut waste the waste that we spend. It's our money and it's being wasted. You have more horses in holding than you have on the range. That is not end. So, we really.

Bryant Kuechle: Ok, thank you Shari. We're going to go to Joanna Henshaw, followed by Heather McLaren and then Stacy Lumley. So, Joanna Henshaw. Ok, Joanna does not appear to be here, so we're going to go to Heather McLaren, followed by Stacy Lumley and then Sarah Kavanaugh. So Heather, I see your name here. I'm going to...I'll give you the ability to unmute yourself. You can begin when you're ready.

Heather McClaren: Hi, can you hear me?

Bryant Kuechle: Yep.

Heather McClaren: Hi, my name's Heather McLaren. I'm an associate broker and realtor with Long Realty Company in Arizona and I'm not only a concerned member of the public who loves horses, as well as comes from a family of people that love horses and feel we have a duty to protect and care for our dwindling populations. But, I also work with homeowners moving to Arizona, sometimes for the sole purpose of living near or working with wild horses. Wild horses are a rare treasure that people in other parts of the country that don't live near them, only dream of living near. We have a responsibility to preserve and care for them, not only for their own well-being, but for future generations of human beings. I would like to see more data and exploration of the cost benefit analysis, since I can only assume it involves financial reasons that the government continues doing this horse herding and wild burro herding with helicopters. Since the data seems to be clear that it's harmful to these animals. So, I'd like to see a cost benefit analysis comparing the impact versus the cost assessing the horse's well-being and humane care using other methods as well of rounding up horses. Including passive trapping, drones, traditional horse herding techniques, I'd like to see all this analyzed because I assume I can only assume there's a financial component as to why it continues in this fashion when it's clear that it's harmful to the animals. Maybe there are other methods such as passive trapping drones and horse riding techniques, and with our modern age that we're in now, that could even be more cost effective than helicopters. Not only saving the government money if that's the reason that it continues to this day but then would be much more humane for the animals. I'd like more explanation to the public with this data as to why these methods are not being explored. And.

Bryant Kuechle: Thank you, Heather. We're going to go to Stacy Lumley, followed by Sara Kavanaugh, then Megan Tartaglino. Ok, alright, Stacy, you should be able to unmute yourself and begin when you're ready.

Stacey Lumley: Can you hear me?

Bryant Kuechle: Yes.

Stacey Lumley: Ok, great. My name is Stacy Lumley. I am from New York. I want to state that these public hearings continue to be meaningless unless they actually result in an analysis document by the BLM that not only utilize that they not only utilize during the gather EA preparation, but also made available to the public. The BLM is currently prohibited from using helicopter drive trapping during foaling season. However, the BLM has failed to define site specific foaling seasons. The BLM must clearly define current and site specific foaling seasons to comply with this regulation prior to any roundups. Utilization of helicopters is cruel and inhumane when there is a clear alternative in bait trapping. Lengths of runs to trap sites should be regulated. The BLM has failed to include current veterinary standards adopted a decade ago for heat index and air quality indexes. If the BLM is not going to stop the use of motorized vehicles for capture of wild horses and burros, it must include clear guidelines as to when it is too hot for horses or burros to run at top speeds for miles and miles into these

trap sites or when the air quality is too poor. Animals are dying. Babies are dying. Pregnant mares are giving birth while they're on the run. These have been videotaped. It's horrendous. Transport during capture must also be clearly regulated. Trap sites must be chosen that do not use unsafe rows. Contractors must slow down and take care in handling our precious horses so they do not fall out of trailers. No hotshot should be utilized. Wild horses must not be left standing on hot trailers. Transfer speeds on dirt roads should not exceed 25 mph due to the number of downed horses that have been witnessed, this has to stop. Really BLM, it has to stop. Thank you.

Bryant Kuechle: Thank you, Stacy. We got Sara Kavanaugh up next, followed by Megan Tartaglino, and then Paulette Sontag. Ok, Sara, you should be able to unmute and begin when you're ready.

Sara Kavanaugh: Thank you. Good afternoon. My name is Sara Kavanaugh, and I'm here today, not just as someone who loves wild horses and burros, but as a mom. My daughter Charlotte, who's with me. We both care deeply about the future of these incredible animals and the ones that are really part of an American story. Our understanding is that managing wild horse populations is not easy. We appreciate that, but we do feel that helicopter roundups do cause a lot of stress and suffering. Horses run for miles and extreme heat on rough ground. Injuries happen and some even lose their lives. So, we believe and studies have shown that safer, more humane options do exist. Fertility control can be a very powerful tool, and we're gathering horses is truly necessary bait and water trapping gives them a chance to come willingly without panic or fear. And as others have stated here, what other risks come along with that, and I appreciate the fellow advocates that are on the call today. I would like now to introduce my daughter Charlotte, who wants to share why this matters to her.

Charlotte Kavanaugh: Hello, my name is Charlotte, and I am seven years old. I love horses and I want them to be safe and happy. I learned that catching horses with helicopters can hurt them and separate babies from their moms. And that makes me really sad. I think there's a better way. Using food and water to help bring them in more safely. I hope you will choose the kindest way to take care of them. Thank you for listening.

Bryant Kuechle: Ok, thank you very much, Sarah and Charlotte. Appreciate the comments from the youth and definitely allow it for that at that moment. But just a reminder to others that we're unable to yield your time to another speaker. So please keep your comments just to yourself. But, appreciate the thoughts, Charlotte. Ok, we're going to move to Megan Tartaglino, followed by Paulette Sontag, and then Joseph Wilson. So, I don't see Megan here. So we will go to Paulette Sontag, then Joseph Wilson, and then Mindy Pless. Ok, we're going to do Joseph Wilson followed by Mindy Pless and then Sandra Hamrock. Ok, I don't see Joseph or Mindy here. So we'll go to Sandra Hamrock, followed by Melanie RN, followed by Teddy Searly. Ok, Mindy, Sandra and Melanie could not locate in the meeting room. We go to Teddy. It does not appear that Teddy is here either. So, now we're going to go to Cornelia Guest followed by Britlynn Baker, Diane B Sloan, and then Cherise Arthur. So, Cornelia, I see you here. I'm going to allow your microphone to be unmuted. You can begin when you're ready.

Cornelia Guest: This is so exciting to go. That's new. Hi.

Bryant Kuechle: Hi.

Cornelia Guest: I'm Cornelia Guest and I am a concerned citizen of the United States and I'm very, very concerned about the treatment of our wild horses. I find that these helicopter roundups are horrible, and there's a better way for all of this. All these horses are killed. What everybody has been saying, but I think after listening to everybody speak for an hour and a half, the most important thing is that there is some transparency. Because, if this was allowed to be seen by all the public, I can't imagine how it would be able to continue. You say that you're humane, nothing I've heard today is humane. So, I hope that we have some transparency and as people have said, that we get at least cameras on these helicopters to show the public what's going on because horses are killed. It's a massacre. It's not a roundup, it's a massacre. So, in keeping with being polite, I think that you guys should have the respect that you are asking us to have and print exactly what everybody has been saying here so people can see what's going on. So, this is out in the public 'cause it's our taxpayer's monies that are massacring these animals. So, there are other ways of doing it. There are dart programs that have been very, very successful. There are other ways, but these helicopters have got to stop. So that's all I'm going to say. Have a lovely day and thank you.

Bryant Kuechle: Thank you, Cornelia. Alright. So, up next, we have Britlynn Baker followed by Diane B Sloan, and Cherise Arthur. Ok, Britlynn, I see you here. I'm going to....you should be able to unmute yourself and begin when you're ready. Ok, Britlynn Baker, if you're here.

Britlynn Baker: Hi, I'm Britlynn Baker, I'm located in...Texas

Bryant Kuechle: Yeah, I think you have, one second. I think you might have two devices on.

Britlynn Baker: You know, not to repeat myself or everyone, but I mean it's what everyone's saying concerning taxpayer's dollars, horses suffering, broken legs, fractured necks, dying from exhaustions.

Like someone mentioned earlier, a contractor was caught on video kicking down a horse in the head. You know it's abuse. It's not management. The BLM dedicates less than 4% of its program budget to the solution. Transparency is the bare minimum. Recordings should be made public, which again has been mentioned multiple times. You know, I don't sound like a broken record, but it's clearly an issue. And there's no transparency on it. And something needs to be done. And people need to be held accountable. And that's all I have to say. Thank you.

Bryant Kuechle: Thank you, Britlynn. Ok, so next is Diane B. Sloane, followed by Cherise Arthur, and then we'll go to Olga Lane. Ok, I don't see Diane Sloane here we'll go to Cherise Arthur, Olga Lane and then Kim Laurent. I'm not seeing Cherise or Olga here, we're going to go to Kim Laurent, followed by Whitney Tapley, and Robin Black, then Larry Black. Ok, I'm not seeing any of those names here in the room right now, so I'm going to start back from the top. There's a number of people that registered for the meeting today that did not, that were not here. So, we're going to start back over. If you are here and I said your name or if you were here and we were unable to get your microphone working, please at this time it would be helpful to use the raise hand function. I do see. Let's see here. Ok, I'm going to begin with Carol Nicholson. If Carol Nicholson is here. Raise your hand. If you are not Carol Nicholson, please do not raise your hand. Ok, there's five hands raised. I'm going to lower those hands.

Christine Richardson: Can anybody hear me?

Bryant Kuechle: Yes.

Christine Richardson: You can?

Bryant Kuechle: Yes, is this Carol?

Christine Richardson: No, it's not Carol. But if like 10 people didn't speak, are you allowed to speak again?

Bryant Kuechle: No, no time is reserved for only the people, for each person. Thank you.

Christine Richardson: Ok.

Bryant Kuechle: Ok, Carol. I see a hand up there. I'm going to allow your microphone, Carol. You should be able to unmute and begin when you're ready. Ok, Carol, if you can click the microphone at the top of the screen, it should allow you to begin speaking. In the upper right area. Alright, we'll try to come back to you, Carol, and see if we can't help sort that out. Karen Maple is up next. Margaret Meyer. I'm sorry. No. Margaret spoke. Deborah Clemente. Ok, I do see Deborah, I see a Deborah with her hand up. So, I'm going to go ahead and allow that Deborah to speak. Deborah, if you'd like to unmute and begin, if this is Deborah Clemente. So, Deborah Clemente, I do, let's see there's a couple Deborah's. I have Deborah Clemente unmuted; you should be able to begin. Again, the microphone icon is at the top of the screen. Alright. Ok, I'm going to come back to you Deborah. Sonya Richens. Not appear to be in the meeting space. Emmy Crystal McKenna not appear to be here. Emmy Hayes, not here. Heather Mills, does not appear to be here. Peggy Oyer? Cheryl Nelson? Andrea Dunlap? Kelly Straub? Tracy Airway? Jean Poublee? Jean, I see your name here. I'm going to, you should be able to unmute yourself Jean and begin speaking if you're capable. The microphone button is at the top of the screen. Looks like your unmuted, Jean. Jean, I see that you're unmuted, so you should be able to begin. Yeah, Jean, we can try to come back to you. It does look like it's working on your end. We just need to- not picking up any audio. Ok, we're going to go to Elizabeth Robison. I don't see Elizabeth here. Christina Patrick. Ok, there's lots of hands up. Unless you're- I can't identify if you are Christina Patrick with all these hands up. So, these are people that registered to provide comment. If your hand is up and you're not Christina Patrick or then making it very difficult to identify if Christina Patrick or the next speaker is actually in the room. So, appreciate it if you could lower your hand. Martha Zimmet. Ok, I see Elizabeth Robison. So, Elizabeth, we'll go ahead and try to, you should be able to unmute yourself, Elizabeth and begin if you're able to. So, Elizabeth, the microphone icon at the top will allow you to unmute. Ok, if you are able to, please do unmute. We'll move on to the next person, Dina Dargo.

Jeneen Beckett: Hello?

Bryant Kuechle: Yes.

Jeneen Beckett: I am- my microphone is on a cell phone and it's at the bottom. There's nothing at the top, so.

Bryant Kuechle: Oh, ok. Appreciate that.

Jeneen Beckett: Ok, thank you.

Bryant Kuechle: Go right ahead and begin, Deborah.

Deborah Wasilewski: Hi. Are you talking about Deborah Wasilewski?

Bryant Kuechle: No, sorry, Deborah Clemente, so. Who was it that was just speaking, was that Jean? I apologize, I didn't see who was speaking just now. Ok, alright we're going to go to Christy Valesquez. Ok, so I see a Megan Valesquez, if this is Christy I'll go ahead and open that up and you can begin speaking. Ok, Megan, Miss Valesquez, if you're there and you would like to begin speaking, you can, you should be able to unmute yourself by pressing the microphone icon. Begin when you're ready. Alright. So, let's see, with the interest of time, I'm going to go through the names that I have here. And I would ask because we need to go through people that signed up to register. Ask that you keep your hand down. I do see Carol. Carol, we've tried to connect with you a couple times Now. I'm going to allow your- ok it looks like your hand went down Carol. Ok, appreciate it if those that have their hands up can keep their hands down while I read through the names of people that registered to speak that have not yet. And if you are one of those people, please keep your hand up and then we'll go back through. Ok, Christina Patrick, Martha Zimmet, Dina Dargo, Christy Velasquez, Dina Moore, Hope Cruiser, Nancy Pruitt, Brian Coffey, Jessica Thein, Michelle Keys, Sharon Megan- Meager, Christine Richardson. I'm sorry. Christine Richardson spoke. Willie Guerree, Eunice Quintanilla, Miss Sorrell, or Mr. Sorrell. Alexandra Travis, Gloria Venner, Adriana Mestiz, Elise Lorwith, Jean Ashcroft, Lynn Bout, Barry Lee, Sarah Nadalsky, Lynn Joyner, Joanne Henshaw, Megan Tartaglino, Paulette Sontag, Joseph Wilson, Mindy Pless, Sandra Hamrock, Melanie RN, Petty Searle, Diane Sloan, Cherise Arthur, Olga Lane, Kim Laurent, Whitney Tapley, Robin Black and Larry Black. Ok, we're going to pause for a moment, and I'll return in just a moment with some next steps.

Bryant Kuechle: Ok, so a reminder that the comment period is for those that indicated that they would like to provide comments. And if you did not indicate when you registered that you would like to provide comments, then we would ask that those people please submit written comments. And we have till 3:00 Mountain Time to submit written comments to the e-mail address on your screen. If you did register to provide verbal comment and you have not yet had the opportunity to do that, either because you joined the meeting late or we were unable to make the microphone work, go ahead and raise your hand only for those folks. And we'll go ahead and go to you. Ok, so we'll go ahead and stay on till the conclusion of the meeting. So that's 10 more minutes to give anybody that did register to provide comment opportunity to do so. For those that did not register to provide comment, we ask that you submit your comments to the e-mail address. I'll check back in shortly before if we do see one of the names appear and shortly before 3:00 for some closing remarks.

Colette Kaluza: Let's see. Is there someone on the call that did not register, but would like to speak?

Christine Richardson: Can I talk again? I really want to talk again. Please. Like, can I talk again? There's a lot of things we didn't get to cover here.

Bryant Kuechle: So we had a lots of people register for this and many of those people did not show up. We need to provide that time for those people that are registered, and we're gonna close out here in just a couple minutes. Thank you.

Colette Kaluza: I would like to make a comment. I've always asked for a wait-

Closing Remarks

Bryant Kuechle and Paul C Griffin

Bryant Kuechle: Ok, once again, thank you to everybody that provided their verbal comment and for all those of you that submitted written comments, I appreciate your patience as we worked through a new system. This is the first time using Teams for one of these meetings and there was again appreciate everyone's patience as we work through some of those items. We had a lot of people register to provide comment, number of those people did not show up. So, we did our best to get through everybody that did register and again appreciate everybody that did provide comment and was able to join. I'm going to turn the meeting back over to Paul Griffin to provide some closing remarks.

Paul C Griffin: Well, thank you, Bryant, and thank you to all the members of the public and BLM State Leads for attending this virtual hearing. Your comments have been recorded and will be considered by BLM's decision makers. We appreciate your spoken comments and if you're unable to make a spoken comment, we appreciate all written comments. I wish you all a good afternoon or evening.

3pm MT- Meeting Adjourns