



COLORADO NORTHWEST RESOURCE ADVISORY COUNCIL RESOLUTION 2009-03

Resolution in Support of Increasing Management Options for Wild Horses on Public Lands

To the Federal Designated Official to forward to the Wild Horse and Burro Advisory Board, Director of the Bureau of Land Management, and the Secretary of the Interior

WHEREAS: The Northwest Resource Advisory Council is committed to maintaining the long-term viability of wild horse herds on public lands in a fiscally responsible manner, and

WHEREAS: The Bureau of Land Management currently has approximately 30,000 head of wild horses in holding facilities nationwide, and this is using 75 percent of the Bureau's annual horse budget. It is fiscally irresponsible and inhumane to continue this current situation, and

WHEREAS: Removing the excess horses would allow BLM to better manage horses on the range within the current budget, and

WHEREAS: Foreign governments have requested wild horses for work animals; however, United States law prohibits export of wild horses and burros, and

WHEREAS: BLM can on an average annual basis only adopt out less than 5,000 head per year, and

WHEREAS: The Wild and Free Roaming Horses and Burros Act and current regulations authorize BLM to dispose of excess horses by sale or humanely destroying them, and

WHEREAS: The public has released domestic horses onto public lands.

THEREFORE, Be it resolved that the Northwest Colorado Resource Advisory Council requests the Bureau of Land Management and the Department of the Interior to ask Congress and the President of the United States to support a bill allowing the following: exporting of wild horses to foreign countries by sale or donation where they may be put to beneficial use whether for pleasure, work, or food.

THEREFORE, Be it further resolved that the NW RAC requests that Congress recognize that euthanasia is a viable option for disposal once other management options have been attempted.

THEREFORE, Be it further resolved that the Northwest RAC supports rescinding the ban on the slaughter of horses and burros.

THEREFORE, Be it further resolved that in addition to the thriving ecological balance requirement of the Wild Horse and Burro Act, the maximum number of horses on the rangeland should be limited to a population size whose annual production of foals is no higher than what the public is willing to adopt or purchase annually.