



BLM Resource Advisory Councils

Partners Across The West

Northwest Colorado Resource Advisory Council

Feb. 25, 2010

Dear Secretary Salazar:

The Northwest Colorado Resource Advisory Council (NWRAC) has recently been briefed on your new proposed strategy to more sustainably manage wild horse and burros on public land.

As you are aware, northwest Colorado has three Wild Horse Herd Management Areas, and the NWRAC has been very actively involved in wild horse issues for several years.

The NWRAC shares the goals of placing the Wild Horse and Burro Program on a more sustainable track while supporting a thriving ecological balance with wild horses on the western landscape.

The NWRAC would like to have the opportunity to provide advice and offer its expertise to the BLM teams developing the details of this new strategy. We would like to offer our participation through our Wild Horse Working Group for consultation and advice for developing solutions that work across landscapes and between various interested parties.

The new strategy raises several issues that we would like the opportunity to provide specific consultation and advice, including but not limited to:

- The need for effective population control (fertility control, introduction of non-reproducing animals, etc.)
- Definition of what special designation of Herd Management Areas would mean (i.e. no expansion of herd management areas). Any designation should be based on strong local and regional support.
- Responsible, cost-effective long-term horse care that does not adversely affect -- and could possibly enhance -- other land uses.

We also reiterate the request that all aspects of our Resolution 2009-03 be incorporated in the final strategy.

Thank you for considering our request.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, reading "T. Wright Dickinson". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large initial "T" and "D".

T. Wright Dickinson
NWRAC Chair