UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
BUREAU OF LAND MANAGEMENT
AND
UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE
FOREST SERVICE

NATIONAL WILD HORSE AND BURRO ADVISORY BOARD CHARTER

1. **COMMITTEE'S OFFICIAL DESIGNATION:** Wild Horse and Burro Advisory Board (Board).

2. **AUTHORITY:** The Board is established pursuant to Section 7 (16 U.S.C. 1337) of the Wild Free-Roaming Horses and Burros Act (16 U.S.C. 1331-1340) (Act), and in accordance with the provisions of the Federal Advisory Committee Act (FACA), as amended, 5 U.S.C., App. 2. In addition, the Bureau of Land Management (BLM) is subject to additional standards and procedures for the creation, operation, and termination of BLM advisory committees. Refer to the 1995 BLM regulations (43 C.F.R. subsection 1784) for specific regulations regarding: composition (1784.2-1); avoidance of conflict of interest (1784.2-2); calls for nominations (1784.4-1); notice of meetings (1784.4-2); open meetings (1784.4-3); and records (1784.5-3).

3. **OBJECTIVES AND SCOPE OF ACTIVITIES:** The Board will assist and advise the Secretary of the Interior, through the Director of the Bureau of Land Management, and the Secretary of Agriculture, through the Chief of the Forest Service (FS), on wild horse and burro policy formulation and oversight of the Wild Horse and Burro (WH&B) Program administered under the provisions of the Act.

4. **DESCRIPTION OF DUTIES:** At the request of the Director of the BLM, and in an advisory capacity only, the Board will gather to analyze information and consider public comments in order to offer advice and develop recommendations for the Secretary of the Interior, the Director of the BLM, the Secretary of Agriculture, and the Chief of the FS on matters relating to the management and protection of wild, free-roaming horses and burros. Specifically, the Board may be directed to:

   a. Review current and proposed management policies on the protection, management, and control of wild horses and burros, the disposition of excess wild horses and burros, and recommend appropriate changes that will facilitate these actions;

   b. Review current program guidance and procedures and advise the BLM and FS as to whether they are effective for implementing program policy;

   c. Advise the BLM and FS on ways to stimulate public and private participation to facilitate the adoption process and to provide for humane care for animals determined to be unadoptable;

   d. Advise the BLM and FS on ways to foster cooperation and provide liaison among Federal, state, tribal, and local governments, private organizations and affected interests, humane groups, the scientific community, and others;

e. Advise the BLM and FS in assessing the scientific basis for managing populations of wild horses and burros; and

f. At the end of the 2-year charter period, compile a written report to the Secretaries of the Interior and Agriculture highlighting the results of its deliberations and make recommendations concerning major policy issues as requested by the Director of the BLM and the Chief of the FS.

5. **OFFICIAL TO WHOM THE BOARD REPORTS:** The Secretary of the Interior, through the Director of the BLM, and the Secretary of Agriculture, through the Chief of the FS.

6. **SUPPORT:** Administrative support for activities of the Board will be provided by the BLM.

7. **ESTIMATED ANNUAL OPERATING COSTS AND STAFF YEARS:** The annual operating costs associated with supporting the Board's activities are estimated to be $128,500, including all direct and indirect expenses and .5 staff years.

8. **DESIGNATED FEDERAL OFFICER:** The Designated Federal Officer (DFO) to whom the Board reports is the Assistant Director for Renewal Resources. The DFO is a full-time Federal employee appointed in accordance with agency procedures. The DFO will approve or call all of the Board and subcommittee meetings, prepare and approve all meeting agendas, attend all Board and subcommittee meetings, and adjourn any meeting when the DFO determines adjournment to be in the public interest, and chair meetings when directed to do so by the official to whom the Board reports.

9. **ESTIMATED NUMBER AND FREQUENCY OF MEETINGS:** The Board will meet approximately one to four times annually, and at such other times as designated by the DFO.

10. **DURATION:** Continuing.

11. **TERMINATION:** The Board's charter will expire 2 years from the date this charter is filed unless, prior to that date, it is renewed by the Secretary of the Interior and the Secretary of Agriculture in accordance with the provisions of Section 14(a)(2) of the FACA. The Board will not meet or take any official action without a valid current charter.

12. **MEMBERSHIP AND DESIGNATION:** Members will be appointed and serve at the pleasure of the Secretaries of the Interior and Agriculture. Members will be appointed as representatives or Special Government Employees from the following organizations or categories:

    a. Wild horse and burro advocacy groups;

    b. Wild horse and burro research institutions (especially genetics, population biology, and equine behavior);

    c. Veterinary medicine (equine science);

d. Natural resources management organizations (especially rangeland science);

e. Humane advocacy groups;

f. Wildlife management organizations;

g. Livestock management organizations; or

h. General public (with special knowledge about protection of wild horses and burros, management of wildlife, animal husbandry, or natural resource management).

The Board will have no more than nine members, and members may not be employees of the Federal or State Governments.

13. **ETHICS RESPONSIBILITIES OF MEMBERS:** No Board or subcommittee member shall participate in any specific party matter including a lease, license, permit, contract, claim, agreement, or related litigation with the Department in which the member has a direct financial interest. As provided in 43 CFR 1784.2-2, members of the Board shall be required to disclose their direct or indirect interest in leases, licenses, permits, contracts, or claims that involve lands or resources administered by the BLM, or in any litigation related thereto.

14. **SUBCOMMITTEES:** Subject to the DFO's approval, subcommittees can be formed for the purposes of compiling information or conducting research. However, such subcommittees must act only under the direction of the DFO and must report their recommendations to the full Board for consideration. Subcommittees must not provide advice or work products directly to t the agency. The Board Chair, with the approval of the DFO, will appoint subcommittee members. Subcommittees will meet as necessary to accomplish their assignments, subject to the approval of the DFO and the availability of resources.

15. **RECORDKEEPING:** The Records of the Board, formal and informal subcommittees, or other subgroups of the Board, shall be handled in accordance with General Record Schedule 26, Item 2, or other approved agency records disposition schedule. These records shall be available for public inspection and copying, subject to the Freedom of Information Act, 5 U.S.C. 552.

Ken Salazar

Secretary of the Interior

JUN 04 2010

Date Signed

Tom Vilsack

Secretary of Agriculture

JUL 22 2010

Date Signed

JUL 22 2010

Date Charter Filed