



JIM GIBBONS  
*Governor*

STATE OF NEVADA  
**DEPARTMENT OF WILDLIFE**

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KENNETH E. MAYER  
*Director*

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January 28, 2010

Secretary Ken Salazar  
U.S. Department of the Interior  
1849 C Street, N.W.  
Washington, DC 20240

Dear Secretary Salazar:

The Nevada Department of Wildlife (NDOW) supports your proposal to provide a long-term solution to managing wild horses on western rangelands. We feel it was important to recognize that western rangelands have severe limitations in their ability to support current wild horse population levels due to the scarcity of forage and water. Nevada's wildlife is currently having difficulty recovering from the devastating fires of the late 1990s and early 2000s. Millions of acres are either at the very early stages of recovery or are currently inundated with invasive annual weeds, which fail to supply adequate forage for wildlife, livestock or wild horses.

NDOW agrees with the need to manage wild horses with a long-term plan that aims at keeping wild horse numbers at or below the appropriate management level and overcoming their ability to double herd size every four years. Bureau of Land Management (BLM) will need all of the tools currently at their disposal and more to accomplish this goals including the use of aircraft to facilitate roundups and development of a long- term contraceptive or use of surgical sterilization to create non-reproducing herds.

We applaud the recognition that wild horses are a national issue and that moving horses (identified for roundup and currently in captivity) to grazing areas in the east will not only allow residents in the eastern states to view the horses but an opportunity to share in their care and management. We feel that grazing lands in the east will provide for a greater carrying capacity than the arid rangelands of the west and will result in the need for much smaller parcels of land to provide for horse maintenance.

We look forward to seeing your plan in action. If there is some additional support we may provide, please do not hesitate to call on us.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Kenneth E. Mayer".

Kenneth E. Mayer  
Director

DP/SMS/tw/KEM