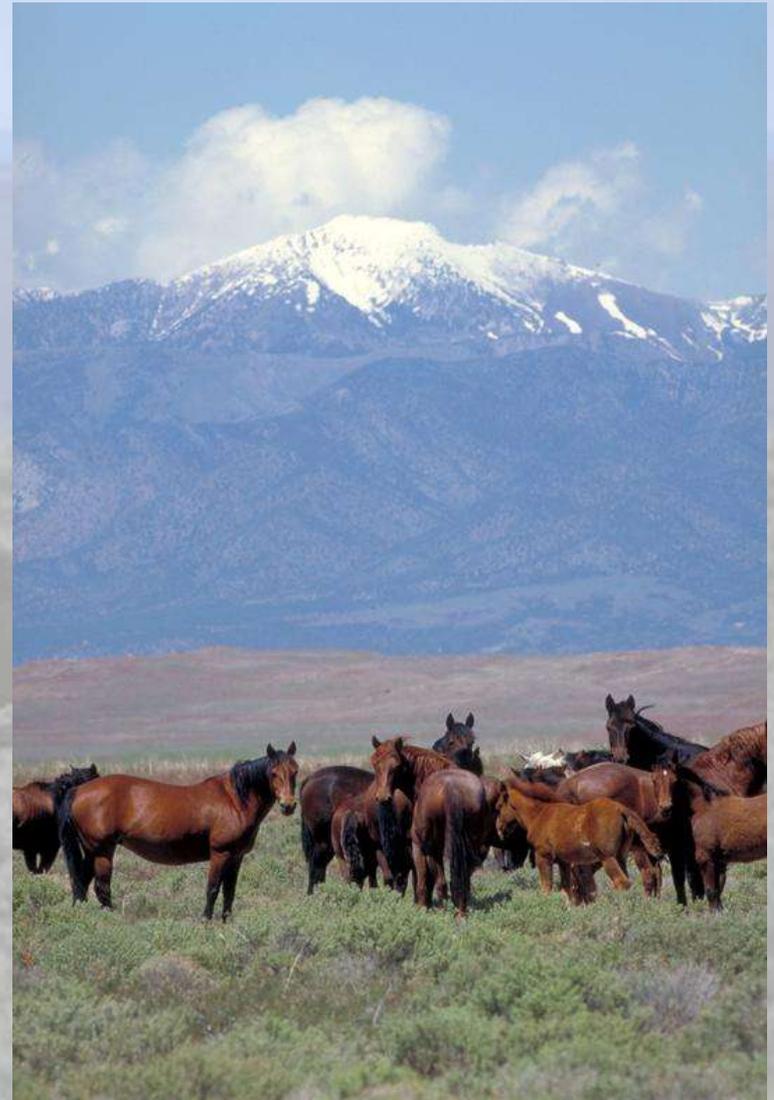


The Bureau of Land Management's

Wild Horse and Burro Program



**The BLM
protects
and
manages
thousands of
iconic wild
horses on
the public
rangelands
of the West.**



BLM's Top Priority

“...Ensure the health of the public lands so that the species depending on them – including the nation's wild horses and burros – can thrive...”

***BLM Director
Bob Abbey***



The Wild Free-Roaming Horses and Burros Act of 1971 Requires BLM to:

- **Manage wild horses and burros to achieve a thriving natural ecological balance on the public lands.**
- **Remove animals to achieve appropriate management levels**
- **Protect the range from overpopulation of horses and burros**



Where Did These Wild Horses Come From?



Map Showing the Northern Spread of Horses Among the Indian Tribes

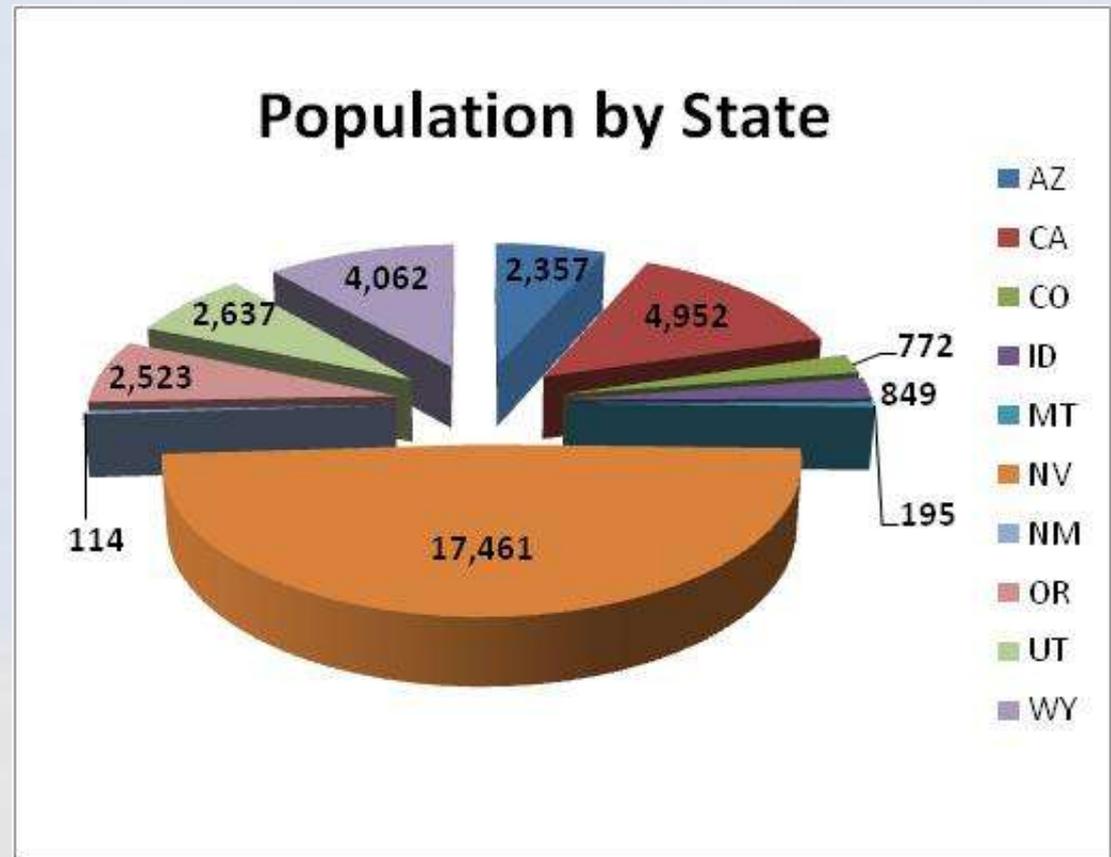
- Brought to North America by Spanish explorers beginning in the 16th century.
- Distributed by Native Americans throughout the Great Plains and the West in 16th and 17th centuries.

- Set free by the U.S. cavalry, farmers, ranchers, and miners in 18th through mid 20th centuries.

Where are the Wild Horses?

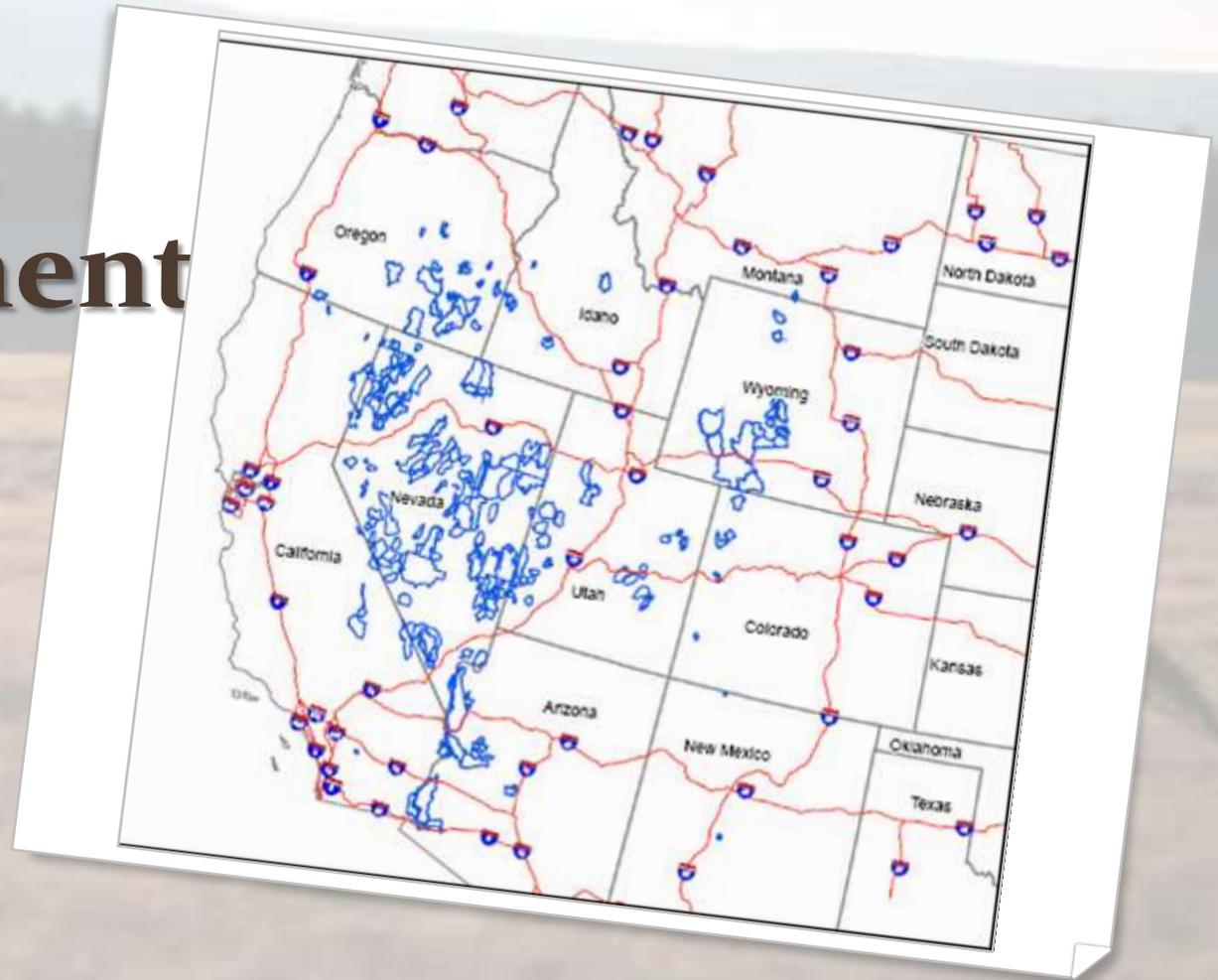
On The Range

- 36,000+ horses and burros
- On 26.6 million BLM-managed acres in
- 180 Herd Management Areas
- 10 Western States



Herd Management Areas

180 Herd Management Areas are outlined in blue.



Counting Horses

The direct count method undercounts horses on the range.

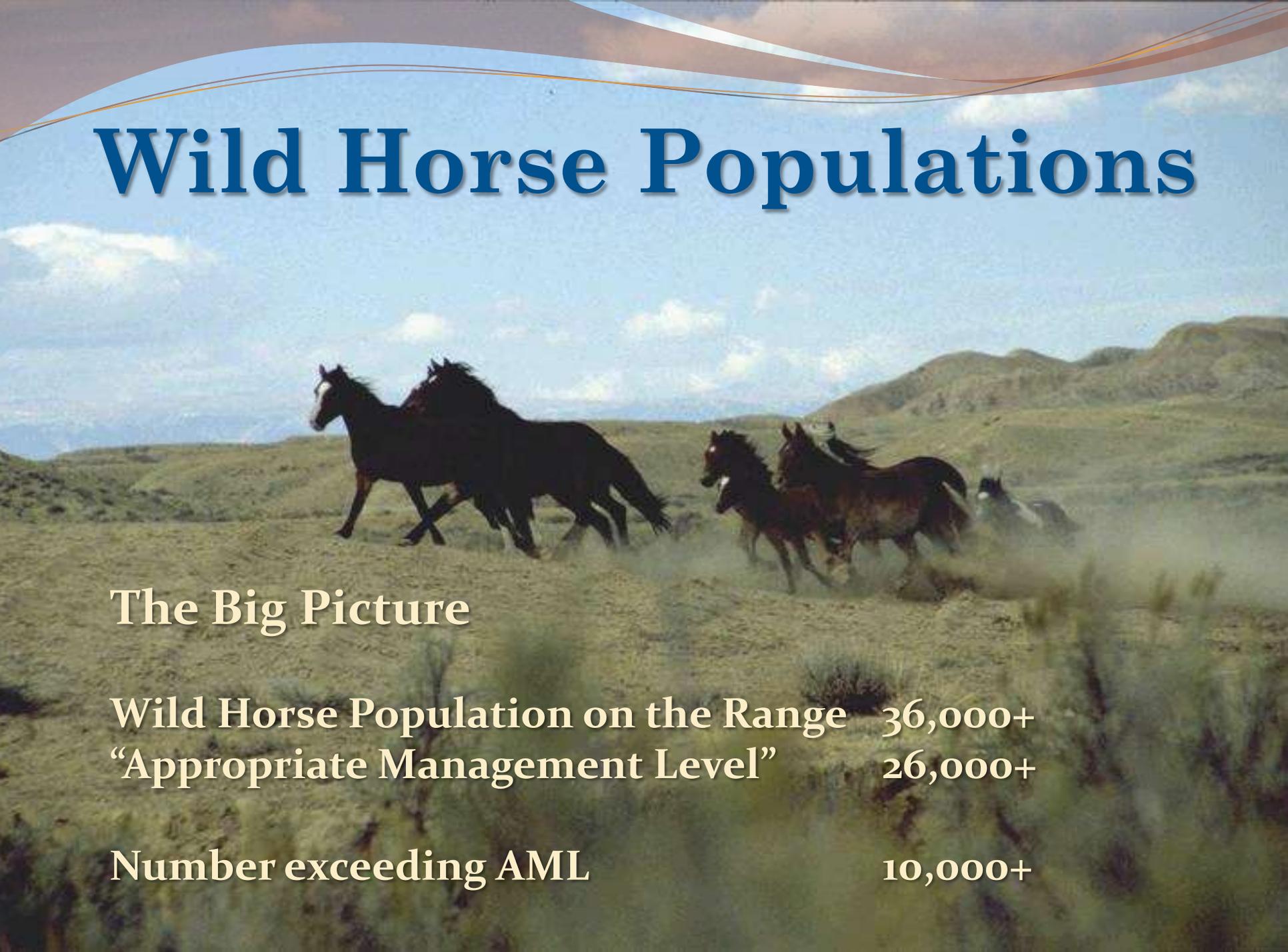
BLM is moving to a more scientific method.



Wild Horse Populations

- Through an open, public process, the BLM sets the Appropriate Management Level for populations based on range conditions.
- With no natural predators, wild horse populations can double every four years.
- Wild horse populations exceed targets by 2 to 5 times in more than half of all Herd Management Areas.

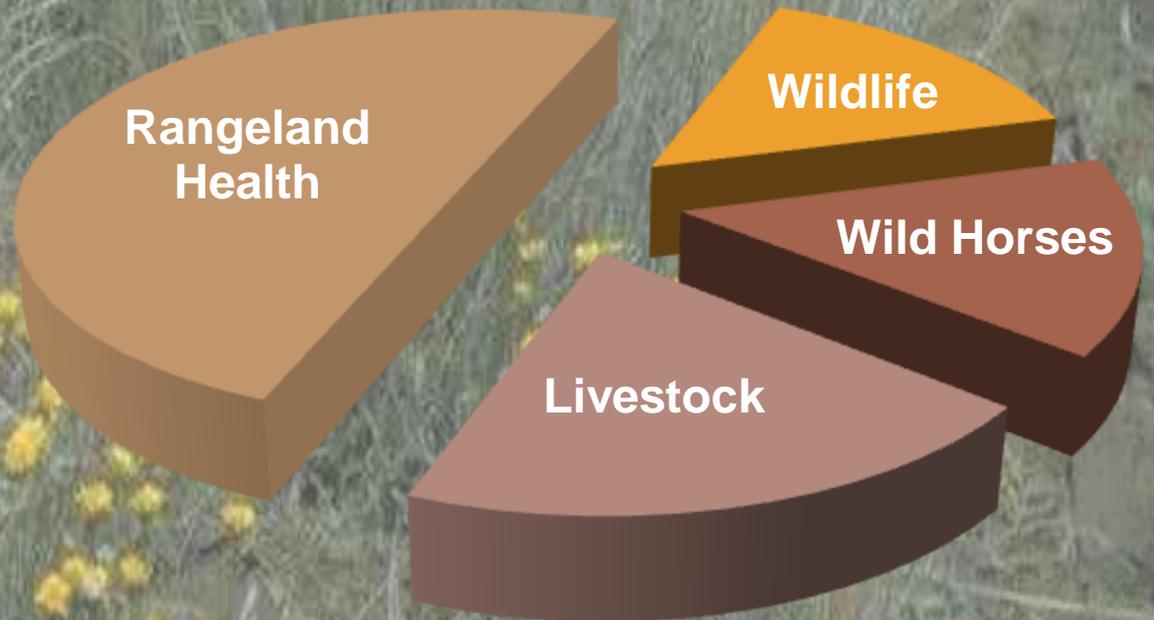
Wild Horse Populations

A herd of wild horses is captured in motion, running across a vast, open landscape. The horses are in various shades of brown and black, with some white markings. They are kicking up dust as they gallop. The background features rolling hills and a bright blue sky with scattered white clouds. The overall scene conveys a sense of freedom and natural beauty.

The Big Picture

Wild Horse Population on the Range	36,000+
“Appropriate Management Level”	26,000+
Number exceeding AML	10,000+

Wild Horses Share Rangelands



Health of the Public Lands

- Western rangelands are dry; many are in desert areas.
- An extensive 10-year drought has taken a toll.
- Too many horses deplete forage and water needed for wildlife and healthy horse herds.



Exclosure study in northern Nevada shows depletion of forage by horses; vegetation loss impacts wildlife.

Condition of the Range



These wild horses seek out traditional watering places in this area near Battle Mountain, Nevada, but there is no water.

Overgrazing



Too many horses overgraze the range, putting plants and animals, including horses, at risk.

Area near Las Vegas, Nevada, in 2007

Damaged Riparian Areas



Too many horses damage grasslands, putting plants and animals, including horses, at risk.

A photograph of a herd of wild horses running across a grassy field. The horses are in various shades of brown and tan, with some having white markings on their faces. They are captured in motion, with their legs extended and manes flowing. The background is a natural, open landscape with sparse vegetation.

Fertility Control

Essential to controlling herd growth rates on the range

- PZP developed in 1990
- Expensive and temporary
- More effective methods are 5 – 8 years from production

BLM is committed to supporting more effective fertility control methods

Wild Horse Gathers

Each year, the BLM gathers excess wild horses and burros from areas where vegetation and water could become scarce if too many animals use the area.



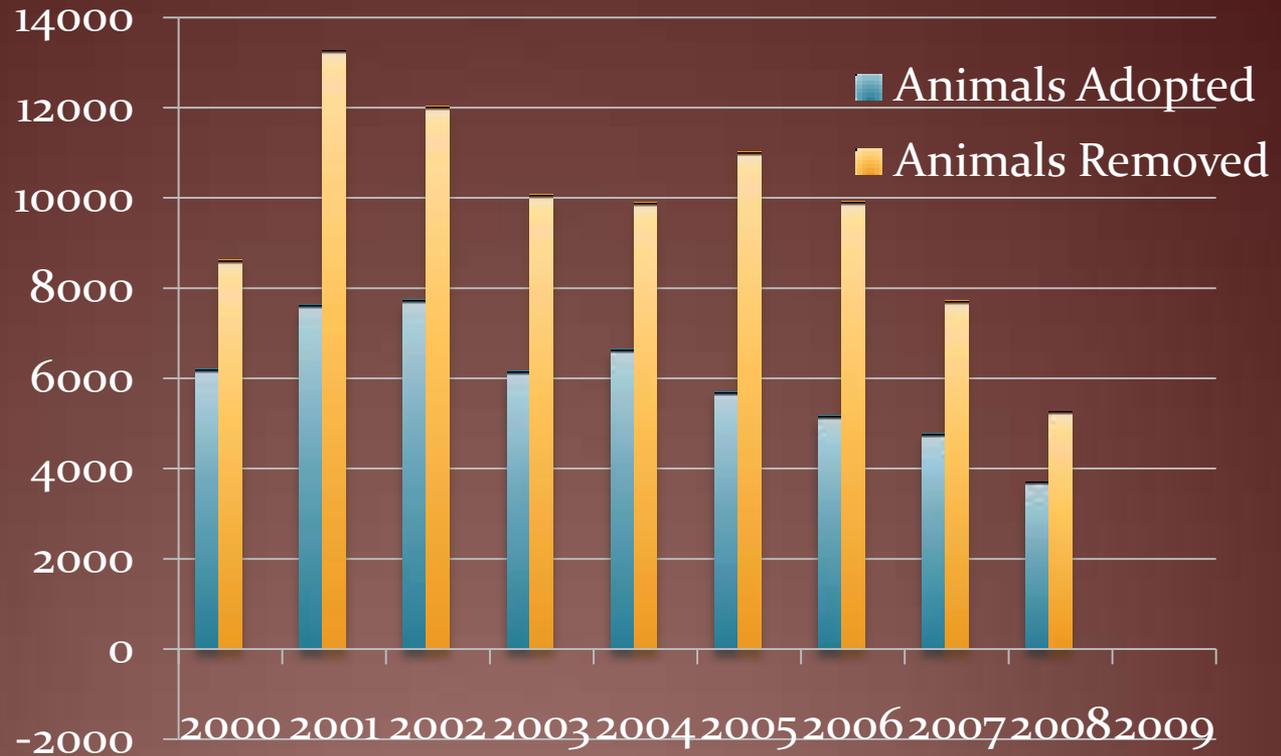
Adoptions



These animals are offered for adoption to qualified people through the BLM's Adopt a Wild Horse or Burro program.

Wild Horse and Burro Removals and Adoptions

Wild horse adoption demand has declined in recent years.



Fiscal Year	2000	2001	2002	2003	2004	2005	2006	2007	2008	2009
Adopted	6202	7630	7746	6165	6644	5701	5172	4772	3706	3496
Removed	8631	13277	12029	10081	9899	11023	9926	7726	5275	6036

What Happens to Horses That Are Not Adopted?

They are placed
into

Long Term
Pastures:

About 22,000 horses



Most holding facilities are in the Midwest, such as this long-term pasture in Kansas.

Holding Costs Are High

In 2009,
70% of BLM'S
\$40.6 million
budget for the
program was
spent on
holding.



Interior Secretary Salazar Proposes a New Strategy

“We need a comprehensive and balanced approach built on new partnerships, new thinking and new courage to tackle an issue that, unfortunately, has no easy solution. ...

“Let us find common ground and humane, environmentally sound solutions on our public lands.”

Excerpts from “At Home on the Range,” by Interior Secretary Ken Salazar, LA Times, January 14, 2010



The Secretary's Proposal

**A national solution to restore the health of
America's wild horse herds and
America's rangelands**

- **Keeps Wild Horses on Western Rangelands**
- **Provides for Long-term Care of Animals on New Preserves to be Established in the East & Midwest**
- **Increases Adoptions With More Flexible Tools**

The Secretary's Proposal (continued)

- Uses More Aggressive Fertility Control to Balance Herd Growth Rates with Adoption Demand
- Designates Special Herd Management Areas in the West

This proposal would “...put the program on a more sustainable track, enhance conservation of this iconic animal, and provide better value for the taxpayer.”

-- Interior Secretary Ken Salazar

Become Involved!



- Adopt a wild horse or burro!
- Tell others about the BLM's program
- Volunteer to help on or off the range
- Let us know how we can improve!

For More Information:

1-866-4MUSTANGS

1-866-468-7826

www.blm.gov