



January 21, 2010

Mr. Bob Abbey
BLM Director
1849 C Street, NW, Room 5661
Washington, DC 20240

Re: Feral Horse and Burro Management on Federal Public Lands.

Dear Director Abbey:

In the recent *LA Times* article *At Home on the Range* (January 14, 2010), Secretary of the Interior Ken Salazar stated his ideals to manage feral horses and burros on western public lands. Secretary Salazar should be commended for his efforts to address this controversial and emotionally charged issue. The current management plan, in which feral horses and burros are removed from the range and cared for, comes with an annual price tag of \$35 million; this is not sustainable.

With the use of best science, populations can be responsibly managed. The feral horses and burros that currently populate western landscapes were introduced to their environs, and with little population management have flourished. These populations of non-native horses and burros are now impacting native vegetation and wildlife such as bighorn sheep, pronghorn antelope, and sage grouse just to name a few.

The Wild Sheep Foundation supports science based management plans that sustain all fauna and flora. This includes feral horses and burros that must be managed in an ecological and responsible manner.

Sincerely,

Neil Thagard
Director of Operations