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NATIONAL ADVISORY BOARD FOR WILD FREE-ROAMING HORSES AND BURROS

June 3 and 4, 1976 John Day, Oregon



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AGENDA
National Advisory Board
for
Wild Free-Roaming Horses and Burros
John Day, Oregon
Forest Supervisor's Office
Malheur National Forest
June 3-4, 1976

June 3

- 8 a.m. Tour of Murderers Creek Wild Horse Herd Territory to Review Management and Control Program.
- 5 a.m. Return to John Day

June 4

- 8:30 a.m. Organization of Advisory Board--Selection of Chairman and Vice Chairman - Federal Representative

Managing Wild Horses in Oregon - Al Meyer, Forest Service
Don Gipe, BLM
- 9:45 a.m. Break

Problems Encountered in Assigning Excess Animals for Private Maintenance - Chris Vosler, BLM

Status of the 1971 Wild Horse and Burro Act and Legislative Proposals - Kay Wilkes, BLM
- 11:30 a.m. Lunch
- 1 p.m. Report to Congress - Don Seaman, Forest Service
Bob Springer, BLM

Agency Reports - Bill Evans, Forest Service
Kay Wilkes, BLM

Status of Research Proposal - Jack Thomas, Forest Service
Milt Frei, BLM

Wild Horse Public Information Program - Dan Alfieri, BLM
- 2 p.m. Public Comment

Advisory Board Discussion and Recommendations
- 5 p.m. Adjournment

George L. Tuvesitt
Associate Director

Bureau of Land Management
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Board Members Present - June 4, 1976

Dr. Floyd Frank	Moscow, Idaho
Mr. Arnold Ewing	Eugene, Oregon
Mrs. Pearl Twyne	Great Falls, Virginia
Mr. Roy Young	Elko, Nevada
Dr. Patricia Moehlman	Madison, Wisconsin
Mr. William Reavley	Sacramento, California
Dr. Michael Pontrelli	Reno, Nevada

Agency Personnel Present - June 4, 1976

William L. Evans, Washington, D.C., Director, Range Management, Forest Service

Kay Wilkes, Washington, D.C., Chief, Division of Range, Bureau of Land Management

Don Seaman, Washington, D.C., Assistant Director, Range Management, Forest Service

Bob Springer, Washington, D.C., Division of Range, Bureau of Land Management

Dan Alfieri, Washington, D.C., Chief, Office of Public Affairs, Bureau of Land Management

Nancy Manzi, Washington, D.C., Division of Range, Bureau of Land Management

Milton Frei, Denver, Colorado, Biologist, Bureau of Land Management

Dan Williams, John Day, Oregon, Forest Supervisor, Malheur National Forest

Al Meyer, John Day, Oregon, District Ranger, Malheur National Forest

Bob Storch, John Day, Oregon, Malheur National Forest

Don Gipe, Portland, Oregon, Bureau of Land Management

Larry Lee, Portland, Oregon, Bureau of Land Management

Chris Vosler, Burns, Oregon, District Manager, Bureau of Land Management

Les Fluckiger, Ogden, Utah, U.S. Forest Service

Jack Royle, Prineville, Oregon, Ochoco National Forest

Win Green, Blanco, New Mexico, U.S. Forest Service

Clarence Almen, Portland, Oregon, U.S. Forest Service

Jim Blaisdell, Ogden, Utah, U.S. Forest Service

Jack Thomas, LeGrande, Oregon, U.S. Forest Service

Bob Alverto, Burns, Oregon, Bureau of Land Management

Jim Blaisdell, Klamath Falls, Oregon, National Park Service

Milford Fletcher, Santa Fe, New Mexico, National Park Service

Tilly Barling, China Lake, California, Naval Weapons Center

Samuel R. Dunlap, Baker, Oregon, Wallowa-Whitman National Forest

Debbie Steele, John Day, Oregon, Malheur National Forest

State Agency Personnel Present - June 4, 1976

Ralph Denney, John Day, Oregon, Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife

Bob Stine, Portland, Oregon, Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife

Bill Brown, LaGrande, Oregon, Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife

Dean Clark, Salem, Oregon, Oregon Department of Agriculture

Members of the Public Present - June 4, 1976

Bill Prophet, John Day, Oregon KGW-TV

Jim Farrell, John Day, Oregon UPI

Velma B. Johnston, Reno, Nevada WHOA!

Chuck John, Eugene, Oregon

Paul Doe, Eugene, Oregon

Mrs. Paul Doe, Eugene, Oregon

Patricia Jenkins, Diamond, Oregon

Richard Jenkins, Diamond, Oregon

Belton P. Mouras, Jr., Sacramento, California, Animal Protection
Institute

Betty Morehouse, Christmas Valley, Oregon, Chamber of Commerce and
Environmental Protection Information Committee

Dick Lawton, Mt. Vernon, Oregon, The Oregonian

C. E. McKeever, Mt. Vernon, Oregon, A. P. Freelance

George Hanson, Mt. Vernon, Oregon, County Court

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Proceedings of the National Advisory Board
for
Wild Free-Roaming Horses and Burros

Malheur National Forest
John Day, Oregon
June 3-4, 1976

Introduction:

The ninth meeting of the National Advisory Board for Wild Free-Roaming Horses and Burros was held at John Day, Oregon, on the Malheur National Forest and adjoining national resource lands administered by the Bureau of Land Management. The meeting was requested by Thomas S. Kleppe, Secretary of the Interior, for himself and Secretary Earl L. Butz, of the Department of Agriculture, by memorandum dated April 12, 1976.

The primary purpose of this meeting was to review management, protection, and control of wild horses in eastern Oregon. On June 3, a field tour was conducted on the Murderers Creek Wild Horse Territory. All Board Members present at the meeting were present on the field trip as were most of the others who are listed on the attendance list. The tour, which was open to the public, was conducted over lands where a numbers control program had been carried out in early spring, 1976. Range conditions were reviewed, the management plan for the Murderers Creek Wild Horse Territory was explained and facilities used in trapping excess animals were observed.

Official Proceedings were conducted in the Office of the Forest Supervisor, Malheur National Forest, John Day, Oregon, on June 4, 1976. Attendance of seven of the nine Board Members and others as listed on the roster were included in these proceedings. Reports were made by Agency personnel on managing wild horses in eastern Oregon, and Agency reports, including the forthcoming report to Congress. In addition, eight statements were made to the Board by members of Federal or State agencies and the public. These presentations are summarized in the Proceedings with copies of entire presentations as appendices where available.

The entire meeting was conducted within the approved agenda. Recommendations made by the Board are itemized in the Proceedings.

Proceedings of the National Advisory Board
for Wild Free-Roaming Horses and Burros

John Day, Oregon

June 4, 1976

The meeting of the National Advisory Board for Wild Free-Roaming Horses and Burros was called to order at 8:40 a.m. on June 4, 1976, at the Forest Supervisor's office, Malheur National Forest, John Day, Oregon, by William L. Evans, the Federal Representative.

As Federal Representative, Mr. Evans asked for nominations for a Board Chairman. Roy Young was nominated and elected. Mr. Evans directed Mr. Young to take over as presiding Officer of the Board.

First order of business was to elect a Vice Chairman. Bill Reavley was nominated and elected by unanimous vote. Chairman Roy Young directed the meeting to proceed with the agenda items.

Al Meyer, District Ranger, Bear Valley Ranger District (the area encompassing the Murderers Creek Wild Horse Territory), gave a report with slides on the coordinated Resource Plan for the Murderers Creek area. He advised the group of the Management Plan for the Murderers Creek Wild Horse Territory, and, in addition, briefed the group on the recently completed excess animal removal program. The plan calls for a resident herd of about 100 animals. Numbers were in the vicinity of 170. A control program removed over 100 excess animals from the range. Thirty of these were rounded up and given over to private parties as claimed animals. Seventy (plus) animals were assigned under private maintenance agreements. The level estimated on the range now is 70 head. Numbers will be permitted to increase naturally over the next several years. When the population reaches approximately 135 horses, which is estimated to be four or five years, another removal program will be conducted.

Jack Royle, Range Staff Officer, Ochoco National Forest, reviewed management of wild horses on the Big Summit Wild Horse Area on that forest. One-hundred horses are there at present. A management plan for Big Summit was approved in July 1975. The plan calls for a herd of 55-65 animals. Plans are being developed to remove any excess animals. The Forest will plan removals somewhat below the 65 head level and then let numbers increase above the number for several years before other removal programs are carried out. Retaining the herd at this level will make possible meeting other multiple use objectives on the Ochoco National Forest. Mr. Royle's remarks appear as Appendix No. 1.

Don Gipe, Portland, Oregon State Office, Bureau of Land Management, summarized the situation regarding wild horses grazing national resource lands in Oregon. Mr. Gipe stated that in 1971 there were an estimated 2,784 horses grazing these lands and on January 1, 1976, numbers had increased to 6,159. A statistical summary included in the report appears as Appendix No. 2 in this report. There are currently eight approved management plans in Oregon. Other plans are in progress on other wild horse areas.

Excess animal removals are being conducted currently but not at a fast enough rate to establish levels within the grazing capacity of the range available.

Chris Vosler, District Manager, Burns District, Bureau of Land Management, advised the Board of difficulties with finding a home for excess wild horses. He stated the point is being reached that there are not enough willing and qualified applicants for maintenance of these animals. Funds are lacking to adequately supervise the placement program, much of which takes place after regular duty hours or on weekends and holidays. There is always fear of someone being injured and a claim being initiated for damages against the United States Government.

Kay Wilkes, Chief, Division of Range, Bureau of Land Management, reported on the status of the 1971 Wild Horse and Burro Act and legislative proposals. Mr. Wilkes reported that the Supreme Court had heard arguments on the New Mexico case and that a decision might be forthcoming by the end of July. He stated that the BLM has prepared a position paper covering possible action if the Act were declared unconstitutional. The main thrust would be to firm up agreements with States to continue management programs to assure proper management of wild horses and burros and the land they inhabit. Wilkes stated that there are currently six bills before Congress which would amend the Wild Horse and Burro Act. Most of these cover the aspects of letting title of excess animals to pass to private parties through sale or agreement who would agree to humane treatment of the animals. The amendments provide that excess animals removed from the range would lose their wild free-roaming status and, further, that aircraft and motor vehicles operating under authority of agents of the Secretaries could be used in roundup programs. These bills are now pending before appropriate committees of the Congress.

Don Seaman, Forest Service, and Bob Springer, Bureau of Land Management, reported on the status and content of the forthcoming Report to Congress on Administration of the Wild Horse and Burro Act. The report will be dated June 1976. It will include the current status of management, protection, and control programs along with costs incurred and any recommended changes in the existing legislation.

Kay Wilkes and Don Seaman made Agency reports which summarized most of the information which will appear in the Report to Congress. Advisory Board members will receive copies of that report so the information is not detailed here. In addition, Kay Wilkes introduced the "Adopt-A-Horse" Program recently initiated by the Bureau of Land Management. Nancy Manzi explained the procedures for carrying out this Program to the Board. The program is a Nationwide effort wherein interested and qualified parties can make application to be assigned maintenance responsibility for a wild horse or burro. The initial response has been encouraging. (See Appendix No. 3.)

Jack Thomas, Forest Service, and Milt Frei, Bureau of Land Management, discussed the status of research on wild horses and burros. Thomas reported that a research proposal has been developed by the Forest Service to do basic research on the needs of wild horse and burro management and ecology. The proposal is not in the F.Y. 1977 budget, but could be given high enough priority to be included in budget requests in future years. Milt Frei stated that the BLM continues to work with cooperating research institutions to do needed research using the limited funds which can be allocated to this work.

Dan Alfieri, Chief, Office of Public Affairs, Bureau of Land Management, discussed public information programs of the Bureau concerning wild horses and burros. He stated that they were attempting to acquaint the public with the provisions of the Act in a positive manner, with emphasis on the "Adopt-A-Horse" Program and other placement activities of the Bureau. He showed two short films developed for television to promote this program.

At this point, the meeting opened up to presentation by the public and others in attendance. Presentations made are summarized as follows:

Belton P. Mouras, Jr., Animal Protective Institute

See Appendix No. 4

Mr. Mouras expressed an interest and concern for humane treatment of wild horses and burros. He supported and approved the adoption program. He is willing to assist the Government to assure that the animals assigned through cooperative agreements with individuals or organizations receive humane care and treatment.

Tilly Barling, Biologist, Naval Weapons Center, China Lake,
California

Mrs. Barling stated, at China Lake there are an estimated 1,200 wild burros on an area of 1,095,000 acres. Ranges are deteriorated but no control programs have been conducted. They are working with BLM and National Park Service personnel at Death Valley to develop a Regional Management Plan for wild burros.

Betty Morehouse, Christmas Valley, Oregon; Christmas Valley Chamber of Commerce; Environmental Protection Information Committee (EPIC)

See Appendix No. 5

She said the people of Christmas Valley like wild horses. They disagree with a BLM decision to gather horses which have moved out of area occupied in 1971. Mrs. Morehouse stated the horses were in the area long before passage of the 1971 Wild Free-Roaming Horse and Burro Act. Horses have historically been in this area, according to her, and they are good for the economy of the community. She told the Advisory Board members that livestock operators agree that some wild horses should remain in this area. Don Gipe said his understanding of the situation was that there were no horses in the particular area where the gathering is scheduled prior to 1971. If it is verified horses were in the area prior to 1971, Mr. Gipe stated the decision will be reconsidered. The Board expressed a desire not to get involved in local management considerations, but encouraged BLM to study the information submitted by Mrs. Morehouse.

Dr. Milford Fletcher, National Park Service, Santa Fe, New Mexico

See Appendix No. 6

Dr. Fletcher made a report to update the Advisory Board on management of wild horses at Bandelier National Monument, New Mexico. The monument covers 30,000 acres of which wild burros range on approximately 20,000 acres. Dr. Fletcher reported that 160 feral burros inhabit the south half of the monument. The National Park Service is developing a management program. It is requesting that the public and other agencies make input to their management proposal. By the fall of 1976, the National Park Service will state their policy for management of the feral burro population at Bandelier.

Mrs. Velma B. Johnston, Reno, Nevada; Chairman of the Board, WHOA!

See Appendix No. 7

Mrs. Johnston made her statement as a guest, rather than a member, which she had been for seven years. The statement was to put Public Law 92-195 in proper perspective. WHOA has cooperated with BLM and FS in wild horse reduction programs, when justified. The organization plans to continue their cooperative role. She was critical of the negative approach she felt was presented in an article on wild horses and burros in the BLM publication, "Our Public Lands."

Charles Ottley, Diamond Valley, for Harney County, Oregon Stockgrowers.

Mr. Ottley expressed his appreciation to the Board for its efforts to establish management and control of wild horses and stressed that a multiple use concept is what is needed. Economics, he said, are related not only to ranches but to the community, the schools, to the whole U. S. John Day could not survive on the lumber industry alone, but it must also have the cattle industry. He favored management of wild horses and said the ranchers of Harney County will help in this effort.

Dean Clark, Livestock Division, Oregon Department of Agriculture

See Appendix No. 8

Mr. Clark said ownership of wild horses in Oregon is vested with Oregon citizens. Abandonment has been involuntary. Trespass fees are too large. Fees exceed value of animals in some cases. Concerned about humane treatment of all animals. If 1971 act is declared unconstitutional, Oregon is ready to support a plan covering continued management of wild horses.

Dick Jenkins, Burns, Oregon, Rancher

Mr. Jenkins is in favor of continuing the current management program, and believes there is no need for new laws. He said, "Let's move ahead with good management program under existing laws."

End of presentations.

Two letters were read to the Board members and are attached as a matter of record. They are from:

Pamela J. Dalton, Logan, Utah. See Appendix No. 9

and from Hewitt C. Wells, President, Nevada Wildlife Federation. See Appendix No. 10

Former Chairman Dr. Floyd Frank had responded to the Dalton letter; his reply is a part of Appendix No. 7.

Board Member Pearl Twyne read a prepared statement to the Board. See Appendix No. 11.

Her comments were based on six years' experience on the Board and experience gained on conducted field trips. She said: "(1) Wild horses aren't the sole instrument in depletion of rangelands. Thousands of horses were on the ranges before passage of the act. There are still trespass cattle on ranges. (2) Agriculture and Interior are to manage, protect, and control wild horses and burros. Reductions are needed but reductions in livestock use are also needed. Agencies need a realistic survey of conditions and needs. The Advisory Board was provided to recommend and assist agencies in carrying out the intent of the act. She recommended the Board be kept informed and expertise of each member be available to assist the agencies in carrying out their responsibilities.

Discussion by Board.

After considerable discussion, the following recommendations were adopted by the Board:

- (1) The National Advisory Board for Wild Free-Roaming Horses and Burros recognizes the need for (a) management of wild horses and burros, and (b) implementation of scientific research to determine proper management of wild horse and burro populations in the many varied habitats in which they exist. The Board supports the proposal by the Forest Service for expanded research, especially by contract through university personnel.

This motion passed with one dissenting vote. One member thought recommendation placed more emphasis on research than management.

- (2) The possibility exists that the U. S. Supreme Court will declare the Wild Free-Roaming Horse and Burro Act unconstitutional. Such action would necessitate extensive new cooperative agreements between Federal and State agencies. The National Advisory Board

recommends the BLM and Forest Service actively pursue discussion on these cooperative agreements in case this possibility of an unconstitutional act is realized.

Passed unanimously.

- (3) The National Advisory Board has not received regular information on wild horse and burro matters pertaining to many areas it is likely to be asked to comment on. The Board therefore recommends the BLM and the Forest Service initiate communications to the Board so they can be better advised in issues and questions from the general public.

Passed unanimously.

- (4) The BLM and Forest Service are charged with management of wild horses and burros in a manner which will maintain a thriving ecological balance. Funding has not been adequate to effectively carry out this charge. It is estimated an annual budget of \$5 to \$10 million is needed to effectively manage wild horses and burros on National Forest System and National Resource lands.

The Board recommends that the Departments of Agriculture and the Interior give high priority to providing adequate funding for management of wild free-roaming horses and burros.

Passed unanimously.

- (5) The Advisory Board for Wild Free-Roaming Horses and Burros commends the BLM and Forest Service for the fine job they are doing in the "Adopt-A-Horse" Program.

Passed unanimously.

I certify that I attended the proceedings of the National Advisory Board for Wild Free-Roaming Horses and Burros herein reported, and that this is an accurate summary of the matters discussed and the recommendations made.

7/26/76
(Date)

Roy Young
Roy Young, Chairman

OCHOCO NATIONAL FOREST WILD HORSE HERD, BY JACK H. ROYLE, RANGE STAFF OFFICER, OCHOCO NATIONAL FOREST.

The Ochoco wild horse territory is located approximately 70 miles west of John Day and on the Big Summit Ranger District. The country is somewhat similar to the area viewed in the Murder's Creek wild horse territory. However, it is not quite as open. At the present time, we have approximately 100 head of horses running in the area.

Since we have not gathered any horses, I will discuss with you the action that has been taken in developing a management plan for the horses. In 1974 and 1975, district personnel initiated an action, through the environmental analysis procedure, to determine possible impacts on the environment and other uses in the area by grazing various levels of horse populations. While making the analysis, they did take a look at past stocking. Inventories indicated there were about 60 head of horses in the area for that many years. In addition, the territory is grazed by 2 bands of sheep and wildlife, i.e., deer and elk.

The completion of the environmental analysis report with the cooperation of input of the public and other State and Federal agencies indicated that we could manage a herd of 55-65 head in the present territory. This could be accomplished along with meeting other objectives for the area, such as the needs of wildlife, the need for the adequate management of vegetation, and also provide forage for domestic livestock.

District personnel sent inquiries to interested individuals asking for recommendations in relation to the management of the horses. After receiving numerous comments, the district held a meeting on April 29, 1975, at the Ochoco Ranger Station to receive input for the plan. There were approximately 20-25 people at the meeting; however, they were predominantly grazing or ranching folks with a few other interested individuals. After receiving their input, a draft plan was completed. The public were invited to attend a review of the draft plan before it was finalized. The plan was completed in July 1975.

I would like to show you a few slides that will give you an idea of the topography, area, and type of vegetative cover that we have within our territory. There are approximately 7 bands of horses in the territory, and the ratio of stallions to mares is approximately 1 to 3 or 4. As you can see from the slides, we have open pine country in part of the area, although it is not as open as the Murder's Creek country. Other areas, as indicated in the slides, are rather dense pine thickets, and it makes it somewhat difficult to locate the horses. The bands are made up generally of 1 stallion and sometimes a younger stallion along with 2 to 6 mares plus colts. In a few of the areas, such as Winter Butte and Cram Creek, the horses tend to be quite gentle, and you can ride within a

very short distance of them. While in the Fisher Creek area, because of the brush and the makeup of the horses, they tend to be pretty wary, and you're unable to get very close to them.

We feel we can graze 55-60 head of horses and meet our objective of multiple use management for the Ochoco wild horse territory.

(Summary of Don Gipe's Remarks)

WILD HORSE MANAGEMENT AREAS

- OREGON -

District	Herd Management Area	Acres	# Horses Est. in 1971	# Horses as of 1/1/76	Mgmt. Plans Dev.	Herd Mgmt. Level	Comments
Lakeview	Beatty's Butte	396,000	223	611			Gathering plan developed for 105 horses moved outside herd management area into an area not occupied in 1971.
	Paisley	121,000	81	288			
	Subtotal:	517,000	304	899			
Burns	Murderers Creek	143,140		250	Yes	70-121	F.S. gathered 115 Spring 76 + 34 claimed animals. 25 burros also
	Palomino Buttes	97,796		120			
	Warm Springs	492,109		240			
	Drewsey	127,834		190			
	Diamond Craters	23,277		13			
	Smyth Creek	29,694		129	Yes	30-50	To be gathered summer 76
	East Kiger	9,760		27	Yes	20-30	80 horses removed in 1974
	Riddle Mountain	75,072		255	Yes	80-120	To be gathered summer 76
	Sheepshead Mountain	50,320		216			
	Catlow	292,160		475			
	South Steens	252,235		750	Yes	200-385	Removed 59 Spring 76 - Management plan approved
	Alvord	186,980		334			
	Pueblo-Lone Mountain	315,336		60			
Subtotal:	2,045,713	1,570	3,059				
Vale	Hog Creek	18,120		70			
	Lake Ridge*	2,720		12			* MFP decision to eliminate this herd mgmt. area
	Pot Holes	3,840		22			
	Basque	7,570		33			
	Cottonwood Basin*	2,300		1			* MFP decision to eliminate this herd mgmt. area
	Cottonwood Creek	5,660		58			
	Cold Springs	21,540		230	Yes	80-140	
	Atterbury*	4,080		18			* MFP decision to eliminate this herd mgmt. area
	Stockade	26,866		53			
	Morger	26,172		165			Removal plan approved by W.O. (No permanent water).
	Sheepshead/Barren Valley	639,770		1,128			
	Jackies Butte	78,094		222	Yes	75-133	Management plan approved - gathering not funded
	Three Fingers	70,868		189	Yes	90-156	255 removed Fall 75
Subtotal:	907,606	910	2,201			95 horses outside herd management area	
GRAND TOTAL:	3,520,313	2,784	6,159	8		1,334 horses outside herd mgmt. areas statewide including claimed horses	

WILD HORSE MANAGEMENT AREAS

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Q. What if I receive a mare that's carrying a foal?

A. Any offspring would belong to you. The government has no claim on any of the foals.

Q. Are there specific rules or regulations for moving the horse from the pick-up corral to its new home?

A. Yes. The attached application gives the guidelines and procedure for hauling the horse.

Q. Does the government check up on the horses after they reach their new homes?

A. Yes. We, or someone acting on our behalf, will check the horses periodically to make sure they are being treated well and that their "foster parents" are living up to the conditions of the contract.

Q. Where would I pick up the horse?

A. At the roundup site. All costs involved in transportation would be your responsibility. We will try to make a horse available for you at the site nearest your home, but this is not always possible. It may be necessary to travel a considerable distance to pick up the horse.

Q. Where will most of the roundups occur?

A. Almost all the roundups will occur in Idaho, Oregon, Utah, Colorado, California, Nevada and Wyoming.

Q. Must I be a certain age to adopt a wild horse?

A. No. But, if you are not of legal age in your State, you must have a parent or guardian also sign the application.

Q. What should I do if the horse should die? Is it necessary to have a veterinarian verify the cause of death?

A. If the animal dies, it is not necessary to have a veterinarian verify the cause of death. You cannot sell the carcass to any facility that would process it into dog food or other such products. The carcass should be disposed of according to the sanitation requirements of your State. Burying or burning the carcass is the usual method.

Q. Must I be a U.S. resident to apply for a horse?

A. Yes. We cannot assign horses to anyone living outside the 50 States and U.S. territories.



U.S. DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
BUREAU OF LAND MANAGEMENT

WASHINGTON, D.C. 20240

SO
WOULD
LIKE TO
ADOPT
A WILD
HORSE

So You'd Like To Adopt A Wild Horse?

There are now more than 50,000 wild horses and burros roaming the rangelands and deserts of the West. In fact, wild horse herds have increased to the point where, in some areas, they now pose a threat to themselves and to their environment. When this happens the range is overgrazed and the animals deprived of adequate forage. As a result, thousands of wild horses will need to be removed each year from the range for their own good. Hopefully, new homes can be found for as many of them as possible.

Until recent years, there were few restrictions on catching and selling wild horses but this has changed. The Wild Free-Roaming Horse and Burro Act of 1971 calls for management, protection, and control of all unbranded and unclaimed horses or burros on public lands administered by the Forest Service and the Bureau of Land Management. Although there is definitely a place for herds of wild horses in many parts of the West as a reminder of our frontier heritage, the question of how to control overpopulations is difficult and serious.

Wild horses are not native to America and they have few natural enemies. As their numbers grow, they compete for food with livestock and wildlife. Soon the land is unable to

provide enough forage. Eventually, the land suffers, too.

The only possible solution is management by man.

The law does allow control of wild horse and burro numbers. The most extreme method for doing this would be shooting the animals on the open range. Such an act would be offensive and distasteful. There just has to be a better way and Bureau of Land Management officials have a partial solution at least.

Almost everyone, at some time during their lives, has wanted a horse to ride and care for. With the hope that many people haven't completely forgotten such wishes, the Bureau has a program under which wild horses and burros can be "adopted" for care in "foster" homes by qualified people.

Through well planned and humanely conducted roundups, the Bureau expects to capture a large number of wild horses from overpopulated ranges and make them available to individuals.

Although these animals appear similar to domestic horses, there is one major difference — they are wild. A training period is required to tame them. But it is important to remember that wild horses have not had a life of proper care and attention that an owner would have given them. They may be undernourished and their appearance may be different from that of most domestic horses. However, with proper care, food and attention, these animals can become gentle, affectionate companions.

QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS ABOUT ADOPTING A WILD HORSE

The following questions and answers may help you decide whether or not you would like to take care of a horse or possibly a burro while, at the same time, doing your part to protect the environment:

Q. How do I go about getting a wild horse?

A. By submitting the attached application which will tell us what type of horse you want and the kind of facilities you have for its care.

Q. What does it cost to get a wild horse?

A. There is no charge. But you must bear the cost of picking up the horse at the capture site and the cost of feeding and caring for it. It costs about \$600 per year to feed the average horse.

Q. Are there any restrictions on use of the horse once it's in my care?

A. The law states that the animals cannot be used for any commercial purpose which means renting them out as work animals or using them for other money making projects; otherwise, you can train the horse for riding, show it in horse shows, have it for a pet, or use it for other personal reasons.

Q. Will the horse or burro be in good health? Will it be checked by a veterinarian before I pick it up?

A. All the animals will be inspected at the pick-up site and cleared for transport. The horse may be somewhat undernourished but proper feeding will soon correct this. Some, but not all, States require a veterinarian's inspection.

Q. Who is responsible for any medical costs for the horse?

A. As soon as the horse is transported away from the pick-up corral, all costs and responsibilities, including medical, are assumed by the new custodian.

Q. Will the horse be mine after I pick it up?

A. No. The Wild Horse law requires that the Federal Government remain legal custodian. However, you will have custody for as long as you adhere to the terms of the maintenance contract. The horse cannot be sold. It may, however, be reassigned to another party with the written approval of the Bureau of Land Management.





Appendix 4

**ANIMAL
PROTECTION
INSTITUTE
OF AMERICA**

5894 South Land Park Drive
P.O. Box 22505
Sacramento, California 95822
916/422-1921

MEMBER
WORLD FEDERATION
FOR THE
PROTECTION OF ANIMALS
ZURICH, SWITZERLAND

STATEMENT BY BELTON P. MOURAS, JR. FOR THE ANIMAL PROTECTION INSTITUTE
BEFORE THE NATIONAL ADVISORY BOARD, JUNE 4, 1976, JOHN DAY, OREGON.

The Animal Protection Institute is here again today, Mr. Chairman, to show its continued interest and concern for the humane treatment of the wild horses and burros.

We have watched the operations of the adoption program with much admiration and we offer our continued support and approval of it. To assure that the horses are receiving proper treatment after they leave the government's hands, we have recently offered our full help and support to the government for follow-up inspection of the wild horses. The Animal Protection Institute has placed two staff members on call to assist in this mission, as well as a team of national investigators and California State Humane Officers.

Let us go on record as being willing to assist the government in any way we can in its efforts to assure that the wild horses or burros receive the kind of care and humane treatment they should.

Thank you.

of the Board and President

MOURAS
California

man

E GUERRERO
California

Treasurer

EMMON
California

Honorary Vice-Presidents

MRS. FRANK V. BRACH
Illinois

HARRY DEARINGER
Wyoming

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California

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California

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Vancouver, Canada

ONIE OLIVER, USA, Retired
Puffach, Germany

MICHAELA DENIS
Nairobi, Kenya

Box 123
Christmas Valley, Ore. 97638
May 20, 1976

The Director (330)
Bureau Of Land Management
Washington, D.C. 20240

I wish to make the following oral statement before the National Advisory Board for Wild Free-Roaming Horses and Burros June 4, 1976 at John Day, Oregon.

My name is Betty Morehouse. I live at Christmas Valley, Oregon and I am a member of the American Horse Protection Association. I also serve as President of the Christmas Valley Chamber of Commerce and Chairman of EPIC (Environmental Protection Information Committee.) and this statement has been prepared by me for these two organizations.

Wild horses are of great interest and concern to those of us who live at Christmas Valley. Approximately 100 head of horses in small bands of 10 to 15 head, range in the area of St Patrick Mountain.

We have promoted and capitalized on public interest in the Wild Horse for the past 14 years; since the beginning of the small community of Christmas Valley. The horses have been here since the white man first settled the area. They roamed the country in large herds and as late as 1952 over 800 head were run from St. Patrick and trapped by a local rancher.

The horse was here many thousands of years ago. In Christmas Lake Valley, only a few miles from the slopes of St. Patrick is the famed Fossil Lake, where the first black, sand-polished horse fossils were found 100 years ago. Fossils of several types of Pleistocene horses were represented, not the three toed horse of millions of years ago, but horses identical to our breeds of horses and ponies of today. So abundant were these bones in the area, the basin became known as the Oregon "equus beds."

As one holds and looks at one of these horse bones at Fossil Lake, then gazes at St. Patrick and envisions the wild horses running free there now, one wonders if the paleontologists will some day discover that all horses did not make their exodus from this land; that perhaps some survived and stayed after this bone was deposited only 12,000 years ago. The wild horse is truly native here.

Christmas Valley depends on tourism for its very survival. Our situation is unique. We have good BLM access roads to within sighting distance of wild horses, only 15 miles from overnight facilities, and an airstrip and fuel make possible an exciting aerial panorama of open wild country, and wildlife; including the wild horse. I know of no other place in Oregon where such easy accessibility to the wild horse is possible.

The Highway Dept. of the state of Oregon published an article last year about Christmas Valley in the Insiders' Guide To Oregon, Vol. 2, in which they told about the wild horses roaming near Christmas Valley. In response to this article many people came to see the horses last year and we expect even more this summer.

In 1964 we featured a wild horse at our rodeo and received state wide publicity. Various articles and publications have told of our wild horses prior to the laws passed to protect them and since that time.

We consider the wild horses at St. Patrick a valuable asset to our community, contributing not only to our esthetic and historical values, but to our economical survival as well.

A recent illegal capture of six of these horses, brought to our attention the shocking fact that the BLM plans to remove or destroy every one of these horses from the St. Patrick area. The BLM has arbitrarily declared these horses were never there until after 1971 and have provided erroneous population counts to back up their ridiculous assertion and to promote their planned extermination of our wild horses.

We of Christmas Valley ask the help of the National Advisory Board for Wild Free-Roaming Horses and Burros, in helping us to prevent the BLM from stripping our public land of a major asset to our community, in complete disregard of their own Multiple Use Concept.

Thank you.

Betty Morehouse
Betty Morehouse

Remarks of Milford Fletcher

Biologist, National Park Service, Santa Fe, New Mexico

at John Day Meeting - June 4, 1976

The following comments reflect the thinking and planning of the Southwest Region of the National Park Service.

Bandelier National Monument, located in North-Central New Mexico, is an archeological area of approximately 30,000 acres. More than 20,000 acres of the monument will be incorporated in the National Wilderness System in the near future. Approximately 160 feral burros inhabit the southern half of the monument.

The members of the Board may remember that in February 1975 the National Park Service began the final phase of research on the feral burro population at Bandelier. That research is now completed and the data are being compiled and tabulated. After review, the data will be presented to the public in the form of news releases.

Next week the National Park Service will meet with nearly a dozen New Mexico State and Federal agencies in a session to consult with these agencies and iron out difficulties in philosophy and legal constraints.

Sometime within the next two months, the Southwest Region of the National Park Service will hold a public meeting in Santa Fe, New Mexico to solicit public input and comments on an Environmental Assessment for

Feral Burro Management at Bandelier National Monument.

By fall, 1976, the National Park Service will have fulfilled the requirements of the National Environmental Policy Act and should be in a position to definitely state their policy for the feral burro population at Bandelier.

Comments and questions may be directed to the Regional Director, Southwest Regional Office, Box 728, Santa Fe, New Mexico 87501.

Milford Fletcher, PhD.
Biologist
Southwest Regional Office
National Park Service
Box 728, Santa Fe, New Mexico 87501

STATEMENT OF VELMA B. JOHNSTON, EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR AND CHAIRMAN
OF THE BOARD OF WILD HORSE ORGANIZED ASSISTANCE, INC. (WHOA!)

John Day, Oregon
June 4, 1976

To the Chairman and Members of the National
Advisory Board on Wild Free-Roaming Horses and Burros:

Thank you for this opportunity to appear before you today, for the first time in seven years, incidentally, here in the guest area instead of among you listening to someone else.

The purpose of my statement today is an effort to seek your help in putting into perspective the many and varied opinions on PL 92-195 that are making their appearance in newspapers, magazines and other publications, many of them official. It is my hope that it will stimulate you, in your deliberations, to carefully weigh the inconsistencies in the many answers we receive to our questions.

Shortly after the Wild Horse and Burro Act was passed, I was asked if I believed it could be effectively administered, and my reply was that it all depended on attitudes . . . attitudes of those actually involved in administering the Act, including those at the field level. Subsequent developments have confirmed that opinion. An early specific example is the occurrence at the BLM District level near Howe, Idaho in February, 1973. Attitudes of those who are in other responsible positions from whom the news media draws its information are of vital significance as well, and when their highly exaggerated, negative and unsubstantiated statements are quoted in news releases, they serve only to add fuel to an already volatile situation, while at the same time disregarding the fact that the Act calls for the protection of wild horses and burros, as well as their management and control.

Because we are meeting here in Oregon today, where a large number of the negative news stories, magazine articles and opinions originate, I shall direct my comments to the situation in this State. I do not mean to infer that it is not equally true in other areas.

WHOA!, in whose behalf I am here today, has cooperated with the Bureau of Land Management and the Forest Service extensively in wild horse reduction programs when they are justified, and we have endeavored to have a representative at as many planning sessions as possible. When we cannot, we forward written input. We are active in the placement program as well, having pioneered it in Montana in 1971. Overwhelming as the temptation sometimes is to let emotion over-ride our common sense, results of our involvement is proof that our only concern is for the welfare of wild horses and burros, other wildlife, and preservation of the public land resource without which man himself, along with all other creatures dependent upon it, cannot survive. We have gone on record publicly and through our elected officials in support of the sweeping range management programs currently being undertaken and in so doing have earned for ourselves the enmity of those vested interest users of our national resource lands who are being required, at long last, to curtail their rape of our land. We have come out in strong support of the Senate-passed Organic Act, and in vehement opposition to the House Committee's emasculated version. We plan to continue in our cooperative role.

The article "Status Report on the Wild Horse on the National Resource Lands" appearing in the Spring issue of OUR PUBLIC LANDS, a publication of the United States Department of the Interior, while understandably pointing up the difficult task facing national resource administrators who are in the position of attempting to reverse the accelerating downward trend in the productivity of the public land, is an example of the prevailing negative approach in its presentation of the situation in this State. It has brought to mind a number of questions that could well be asked, and to which there has already been a disturbing inconsistency in the answers.

The article opens this way: "Last January, cattlemen in the Burns, Oregon area got some bad news. The news was that they wouldn't be allowed to graze as many cattle on public range lands as usual this Summer, and that the grazing period permitted could be shortened by as much as two months. The reason? Because overgrazing by wild horse herds has reduced forage on both private and public range land to such a low level that there isn't enough food for either horses or cattle." The underlining is mine, to emphasize the point I am making.

Well, the article is correct in that there isn't enough food, and this creates critical problems for all users, but we disagree completely that the responsibility for deteriorated ranges lies with the wild horse herds and that the depredation has occurred in the short period of time since enactment of the 1971 Law. Confirmation of our position is readily available in the indictment of BLM by BLM in its Task Force investigation into grazing practices released in 1974 which, while dealing specifically with my own state of Nevada, points to other investigations showing "similar or more serious conditions in other Western states".

We cannot condone misrepresentations, unjustifiable reductions or negative attitudes when they appear to make wild horses and burros scapegoats:

For a situation that existed long before any law was passed in behalf of these animals;

For lack of proper management;

Or to cover for the tendency to favor interests oriented toward consumptive uses of the public land which return short term economic benefits to the relatively few, while short-changing the many whose interests are not of an economic nature.

I have prepared some figures that follow, using the Department of the Interior's publications PUBLIC LAND STATISTICS and information contained in "The Environmental Statement of the Bureau of Land Management on Wild Free-Roaming Horse and Burro Management Regulations" (draft statement as of December 14, 1972, final statement as of July 3, 1973) and it is reasonable to assume that the figures used in the latter would apply to the previous calendar year, 1972.

I do not have wild horse population figures for 1971, but neither does anyone else, nor can we say that any of the computed figures represent the wild horse population, as there are an awful lot of privately owned horses out there in trespass, claims to which were quickly dropped when claimants discovered their previous free-loading operations were at an end, so I shall refer to them as "free-roaming" horses in the balance of this discourse. To determine figures for the years preceding 1972, I have used the alleged percentage of increase in reverse and come up with a figure that will serve its purpose here, and enable me to make my point.

According to a District Manager's statement, prior to passage of the Act the State of Oregon took the position that all horses running on public lands belonged to someone. Why that "someone" was not required to remove the animals in the interests of range preservation, since free-roaming horses are alleged to cause undue stress on the public land resource, is a question that has not been raised.

On December 15, 1971, a computed population of 2,440 free-roaming horses were running at large in Oregon. During the years preceding that date, we must assume the population was relatively stable, due quite possibly to the extent of harvests for commercial slaughter, and the absence of any complaints from the livestock operators that their domestic animals were being deprived of forage. Tables for permitted use of grazing district lands indicate that during the years 1968, 1969, 1970 and 1971, domestic livestock AUMs ranged from 899,242 in 1968 to 911,459 in 1971. The stabilized population of "someone's" horses would account for 29,280 AUMs annually, roughly 3.2% of grazing use measured in AUMs.

In 1972 free-roaming horse numbers had increased to 2,925, according to the aforementioned Environmental Statement, resulting in an increase in AUMs of use of 5,820, while domestic livestock AUMs were reduced 7,998. Inasmuch as the management program requiring adjustment of AUM allotments to provide for wild horses had not yet got under way, that reduction was not likely to have been to accommodate the free-roaming horse increase. Free-roaming horses accounted for 3.8% of the AUMs.

For the calendar year 1973, instead of holding domestic livestock allotments at the 1972 level, permitted use was increased by 27,056 AUMs, thus far the highest level of use since passage of the Act, while free-roaming horse use, based on the alleged annual population increase of 20%, increased 7,020 AUMs. By the end of that year, claims of private ownership had been filed on 1,310 free-roaming trespass horses, themselves with a forage consumption of 15,720 AUMs of the total 42,120 AUMs attributable to horses, or again roughly 4.5% of grazing pressures in AUMs.

1974* permitted domestic livestock use was further increased in the face of what was already an overgrazed condition, resulting from decades of over-use. Yet the Status Report in OUR PUBLIC LANDS unqualifiedly says: ". . . overgrazing by wild horse herds has reduced forage on both private and public range land to such a low level that there isn't enough food for either horses or cattle." It can be noted here, too, that few of the 1,310 animals claimed in 1973 have been removed. They also eat and multiply. By this time the ratio of free-roaming horse AUMs to domestic livestock AUMs was 5.4%.

By 1975 the free-roaming horse population had grown to 7,000 in the State, according to the Status Report. That is an increase of more than 60% over the computed population for the previous year, and it would appear that there is something wrong with somebody's calculations somewhere.

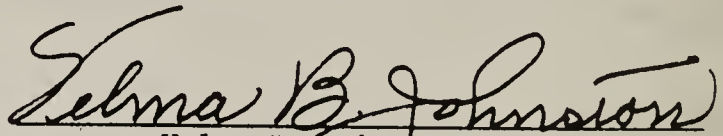
Much is made of the excessive costs incurred in gathering excess horses, and it appears that most information made available to reporters covers cost incurred in an early gathering in this State, excessive and not qualified as to expenditures for permanent installations, to publicity convenience, and to actual roundup and placement cost per animal. The recent Murderer's Creek report shows a considerably less total cost, and roundup and placement costs are shown separately from cost for construction of traps, which will be utilized for future gatherings.

It is the foregoing type of information dissemination that leads to distorted opinions and a dangerously high degree of animosity among all interests involved in

national resource land use and preservation. It is now that we should all work together in a positive approach to carrying out what is a clear mandate of the public . . . protection, management and control of wild horses and burros, keeping in mind always the necessity to reduce ALL pressures on our public land resource so that something of the privileges we have enjoyed will be there for future generations.

Until the entire situation is placed in perspective, and careful thought is given to dissemination of information; until negative attitudes become more objective; until cooperation replaces competition, animosity will continue to be generated and nothing will be gained, with the national resource land becoming the ultimate irrevocable loss.

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Velma B. Johnston". The signature is written in dark ink and is positioned above the printed name.

Velma B. Johnston
Chairman - Board of Trustees of WHOA!

*This figure obtained from Don Gipe by telephone to him at the Oregon State Office May 11, 1976.

Statement of Dean Clark, Salem, Oregon
Livestock Division
Oregon Department of Agriculture
PRESENTATION TO
WILD HORSE ADVISORY COMMITTEE MEETING
John Day Oregon
June 3, 1976

The State of Oregon contends that ownership of free-roaming horses continues to be vested in Oregon citizens and that the federal government's possession has not been gained by or through "due process." We have heard the argument that after previous claiming periods had expired, all owners of wild, free-roaming horses had abandoned such horses and that therefore, possession, if not ownership of such abandoned horses is now vested in the federal government.

We would agree with this argument if the abandonment had been voluntary. But we contend that the abandonment, at least in Oregon, was involuntary and that therefore title, in and to, or ownership of all such horses remains vested in Oregon citizens. Our contention of involuntary abandonment of those horses by Oregon citizens is based upon numerous complaints to the Oregon Department of Agriculture that, in many cases, the trespass fees were so large that owners either (1) could not afford the trespass fee or (2) the trespass fee exceeded the value of the animal.

Secondly, ranchers in Oregon as well as the department staff are concerned about any inhumane treatment of horses, whether wild or domestic; therefore the State of Oregon will vigorously enforce Oregon's Criminal Code to ensure humane gathering and humane treatment of free-roaming wild horses.

If the United States Supreme Court holds that the 1971 Wild Horse Act is unconstitutional the Oregon Department of Agriculture would support a plan for management of the wild horses in Oregon that would:

- (1) Ensure that wild horses do not disappear from the public lands
- (2) Limit Oregon's wild horse inventory to only that number necessary to perpetuate the species
- (3) Ensure rightful owners of the existing wild horses an opportunity to claim, gather or voluntarily abandon their personal property
- (4) Ensure a moratorium on trespass or penalty fees of any kind
- (5) Ensure humane treatment during gathering of horses from the public lands

We in Oregon Department of Agriculture believe that within these five general guidelines a plan could be developed that could be supported by all persons interested in wild horses in Oregon.

Position of the State of Oregon as developed by the Oregon Department of Agriculture.

November 10, 1975

Dr. Floyd W. Frank
1395 Walenta
Moscow, Idaho

Dear Dr. Frank:

I am concerned about the growing prejudice against the wild horse. The mustang has no economic value. He is just a pest which has to be lived with because there is a law protecting him.

Mustanging, for recreation, could change the wild horse from a pest to a valuable resource. Issuing permits for mustanging would result in some economic advantages for the agencies involved. The advantages of this operation would parallel those currently existing in sport hunting. I realize that the revenue from this policy would come nowhere near the amount of revenue recieved by the licensing of hunters. However, it would still be beneficial.

Mustanging would help control the populations of the wild horses. It would provide economic assistance to the preservation and maintenance of the wild horse. Mustanging would insure the survival of the horses, by creating an organized intrest group.

I suggest that the National Advisory Board on the Free-Roaming Wild Horses and Burros recommend an ammendment to Public Law 92-195 be made to include mustanging.

Sincerely, ✓

Pamela J. Dalton
Pamela J. Dalton



University of Idaho

College of Agriculture
Agricultural Experiment Station
Department of
Veterinary Science
Moscow, Idaho/83843

December 1, 1975

Pamela J. Dalton
7629 West Highrise
Logan, UT 84321

Dear Ms. Dalton:

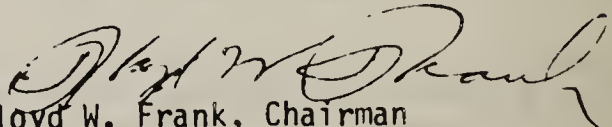
This is in response to your letter of November 10 suggesting the issuance of permits for mustanging. This suggestion (mustanging) has been discussed in the Board but has not received favorable consideration. I cannot speak for the entire Wild Horse Advisory Board, but I believe the principle reservations concerning mustanging are:

- 1) It would result in a substantial amount of harassment of wild horse herds.
- 2) It would very likely result in dispersment and movement of wild horses into areas which are not now wild horse ranges.
- 3) There is a real question as to whether this would be an effective population control measure.

I will distribute copies of your letter to the members of the Wild Horse Advisory Board so that it may serve as a possible stimulus to the members of the Board to reconsider the question of mustanging.

Thank you for your interest in wild horses.

Very truly yours,



Floyd W. Frank, Chairman
Wild Horse & Burro Advisory Board

FWF/jl

cc: Kay Wilkes (enclosure) ✓



NEVADA WILDLIFE FEDERATION, INC.

An Affiliate of the National Wildlife Federation

P. O. BOX 49 / (702) 358-7668 / SPARKS, NEVADA 89431

June 1, 1976

National Wild Horse and Burro Commission Meeting
Corvallis, Oregon

June 3, 4, and 5, 1976

Ladies and Gentlemen:

The following is a current position of the Nevada Wildlife Federation which we request that you include as a part of your meeting record.

The Nevada Wildlife Federation approves and requests that you implement the Whitehurst Amendment to the Wild Horse and Burro Act, which Amendment will permit the use of mechanical vehicles for the control of these animals.

Secondly, we request that you put forth a strong plea to the Congress of the United States for funds for management of wild horses and burros.

We urge you to encourage to the greatest degree possible the passage of an Organic Act for the Bureau of Land Management including within this Organic Act police powers for their implementation of rulings.

The Nevada Wildlife Federation considers that reasonable control measures must be implemented at once in relation to wild horses and burros inasmuch as there is a potential threat from the livestock industry to take measures into their own hands for such control and secondly, adverse range conditions created by these animals are highly detrimental to the forage available for wildlife.

Mr. Mike Pontrelli has been requested to present this position on behalf of the Nevada Wildlife Federation.

Very truly yours,

HEWITT C. WELLS, President
Nevada Wildlife Federation

cc: Mr. M. Pontrelli
Mr. W. Reavley
Mr. E. Rowland, BLM

Statement by Member Pearl Twyne at Meeting

I have served six years as a member of the National Wild Horse and Burro Advisory Board. I would like to express my views based upon this experience, and the practical education afforded by the very well planned field trips in many of the Western States. Trips were provided by the U. S. Departments of the Interior and Agriculture. These field trips were to acquaint the Board members with the operational problems faced by these agencies in their stewardship of the public lands, and the control and protection of feral horses in particular.

1. Wild horses have been charged in public statements and adverse publicity, as being the sole instrument in the depletion and erosion of the rangelands because of the Wild Horse and Burro Public Law. This is not true. There were thousands of horses on the public land, some wild, some domestic, competing with livestock, insects, rodents, and other wildlife for the limited forage on which all these creatures had to live. The land was badly overgrazed by livestock years before the public law was passed. Even today, especially in the State of Nevada, trespass cattle are overgrazing on ranges which are badly depleted and in which the vegetation is being irrevocably destroyed.

2. The Congress of the United States delegated to Agriculture and Interior the management, control, and protection of the feral horses and burros and set forth the method for disposing of these surplus animals. These agencies have started the reduction of surplus horses from the public lands and have advertised the availability of horses to the

public who might want horses and who can meet the standards for acquiring these animals. However, I believe that unless a proportionate reduction in the livestock is made, the reduction in horses only compounds the overuse by cattle to the detriment of the public and decimation of the horse population.

A realistic survey should be made as to the carrying capacity of the ranges with a rest period where needed to give the land a chance to recover. The regulations regarding trespass cattle should be strictly enforced and violators charged with trespass fees. I realize that political pressures for special interest groups can cause a serious management problem, and I think the Advisory Board can be of tremendous help to these Government agencies by being informed and by supporting decisions made in the public interest.

Reduction in numbers should be in line with available resources and, in particular, use of critical areas adjacent to water sources. If reduction is necessary, immediate steps should be taken to reduce the animals.

The Advisory Board was provided for in the Federal law to recommend and to assist the Government agencies in carrying out the Act and I recommend that the Board be kept informed of the management efforts regarding the wild horses and that the expertise of each member be available to assist the agencies in carrying out their responsibilities.



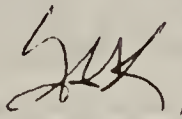
United States Department of the Interior

OFFICE OF THE SECRETARY
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20240

APR 12 1976

Memorandum

To: Members, National Advisory Board on Wild Free-Roaming
Horses and Burros

From: Secretary of the Interior 

Subject: Call to Meet

Secretary of Agriculture Earl L. Butz and I have called a meeting of the National Advisory Board for Wild Free-Roaming Horses and Burros in John Day, Oregon, on June 3-4, 1976.

You will be advised of further details by the Director, Bureau of Land Management.



NOTICES

DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR

Bureau of Land Management

NATIONAL ADVISORY BOARD FOR WILD
FREE-ROAMING HORSES AND BURROS

Meeting

Notice is hereby given that the National Advisory Board for Wild Free-Roaming Horses and Burros will hold a meeting on June 3 and 4, 1976, in John Day, Oregon, at the Forest Supervisor's Office, Malheur National Forest. The agenda and schedule of activities are outlined below:

June 3—A field trip to observe the management of wild horses in the Murderers Creek territory. The field trip will start from the Bear Valley work center at 8 a.m. The tour will end at 5 p.m. at John Day. Individuals from the public wanting to participate in the tour must provide their own transportation and lunch.

June 4—The meeting will be called to order at 8:30 a.m. The first order of business will be the selection of a Chairman and Vice Chairman. Other items on the agenda are: (1) Managing wild horses in Oregon; (2) problems encountered in assigning excess animals for private maintenance; (3) status of the 1971 Wild Horse and Burro Act and legislative proposals; (4) Report to Congress; (5) Agency reports; (6) status of research proposals; (7) wild horse public information program; (8) comments from the public; and (9) Advisory Board discussion and recommendations.

The meeting will be open to the public. Time has been set aside from 2 to 3 p.m., June 4, for brief statements by members of the public. Those persons wishing to make an oral statement must inform the Director (330), Bureau of Land Management, in writing prior to the meeting of the Board. An original copy of all oral statements identifying the author is desired to provide a record for the minutes.

Any interested person may file a written statement with the Board for its consideration. Written statements may be submitted at the meeting or mailed to the Director (330), Bureau of Land Management, Washington, D.C. 20240.

Additional details can be obtained by contacting the office of the Forest Supervisor, Malheur National Forest, John Day, Oregon, or the Office of Public Affairs, Bureau of Land Management, 729 N.E. Oregon Street, P.O. Box 2965, Portland, Oregon 97208.

Minutes of the meeting will be available for public inspection 60 days after the meeting at the Office of the Director (330), Bureau of Land Management, Washington, D.C. 20240.

GEORGE L. TURCOTT,
Associate Director.

APRIL 30, 1976.

[FR Doc.76-13319 Filed 5-6-76;8:45 am]



United States Department of the Interior

4710.1 (330)

BUREAU OF LAND MANAGEMENT
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20240

JUN 1 1976

Memorandum

To: Director, Range Management, Forest Service

From: Director, Bureau of Land Management

Subject: Delegation of Authority--June 1976 Meeting of the
Wild Horse and Burro Advisory Board

Pursuant to the authority delegated to me by the Secretary of the Interior, and in accordance with the May 1972 cooperative agreement between the Department of the Interior and the Department of Agriculture, I hereby delegate to you authority and responsibility to act as the authorized representative of the Secretary at the June 3-4 meeting of the joint National Advisory Board for Wild Free-Roaming Horses and Burros.

Emit Bertelund.





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