

SAVE AMERICA'S WILD HORSES AND BURROS!  
TALKING POINTS

- America's wild horses and burros are a living link to our past, an icon of freedom, and a treasured resource. *In the 1800's two million mustangs roamed our Great Plains. The horse evolved in North America, and since it's re-introduction to the continent it has served us in innumerable ways.*
- Americans passed a law to protect them in 1971 and it is our wish that they remain fully protected, living wild and free on our public lands. *In 1971, an unprecedented letter-writing campaign moved Congress to unanimously pass the Free-Roaming Wild Horse and Burro Act, declaring that "wild horses and burros are living symbols of the historic and pioneer spirit of the West; that they contribute to the diversity of life forms within the Nation and enrich the lives of the American people." Over the past thirty years, the intent of the 1971 Act and the will of the people have been consistently ignored. So my fellow citizens and I are turning to you once again to demand that the Department of the Interior stop wasting our tax dollars on eliminating America's wild horses and burros from our public lands. BLM has removed 75,000 wild horses and burros since 2001. The Bureau of Land Management's current policy of aggressive removal favors private interests over the will of the people; this is unacceptable and un-American.*
- It is our wish that they remain fully protected, living wild and free on our public lands.
- Right now the government is considering killing horses and burros in great numbers.

*At the Nov. 17th BLM meeting with its Advisory Board, among the 17 recommendations voted upon, three of them affirmed slaughter as a "legal option":*

*"15. Recommend that for all emergency gathers BLM have a veterinarian present, and that animals in the field that exhibit signs of disease, stress or body condition that would render them more susceptible to life threatening illness when moved into a holding facility be humanely euthanized.*

*16. As a last resort, recommend that sale eligible animals not sold or adopted after a period of 30 days be offered for sale without limitation (without the intent clause) or be humanely euthanized pursuant to current law unless the Director determines there is a viable alternative.\**

*17. Recommend that to accommodate the differences in operational capabilities among BLM and BLM-contracted facilities, the humane euthanasia of excess animals for which an adoption or sale demand does not exist (as described in #16, above) may include, but not be limited to, contracting for on-site and/or off-site humane euthanasia and carcass disposal. Humane euthanasia for these reasons will be performed only by a veterinarian or under the direct supervision of a veterinarian in accordance with American Veterinary Medical Association (AVMA) guidelines and in compliance with the applicable state veterinary practice acts and applicable state, county or municipal laws or regulations."*

- We do not want any healthy horses or burros euthanized.
- The government has taken, and is still taking away land that belongs to the wild horses and burros. *Over 19 million acres have been removed from the Herd Areas, and 1.6 million acres more have been just taken in Nevada; the herds have been rounded up, adding to the problem of horses in government holding.*
- We believe that those mis-appropriated lands should be given back to the horses and burros.
- We believe the land can support a healthy population of horses and burros. *Independent research has been called for by Congress. Recent management has favored corporate interests over those of the wild equines.*
- The government should ensure there are enough horses and burros to survive into the future. *In many cases, round-ups have left herds too small to be genetically viable.*
- The government has not been doing a good job managing the horses if now they say they need to start killing them.
- We ask for that part of the government to be investigated by Congress, specifically:
  - *Review of scientific findings that contradict BLM's claims of wild horse and burro overpopulation and negative impact on the range;*
  - *review of all proposals that established the current Appropriate Management Levels (AMLs), Herd Management Area Plans, and Wild Horse Territories.*
  - *A moratorium on all round-ups until actual numbers of wild horses and burros on public lands have been independently assessed;*
  - *review of all herds and acreage lost due to interagency transfers that refused to honor legally designated wild horse and burro habitat and resources.*
  - *Restoration of protected habitat throughout all public acreage identified by the 1971 Act "where they were presently found"; and*
  - *reasons for agencies failing to identify wild horses and burros as a cultural and historic resource.*
  - *Implementation of in-the-wild management wherever feasible.*
  - *investigation and recommendations to the adoption program to insure the adopted animals are never abused, abandoned or slaughtered.*