



BLM Resource Advisory Councils

Partners Across The West

COLORADO NORTHWEST RESOURCE ADVISORY COUNCIL RESOLUTION 2012-002

Resolution in Support of Practical, Cost-effective Wild Horse Management

Whereas: There are currently 12,000 excess horses on the Bureau of Land Management rangelands in 11 western states causing excessive range degradation, and

Whereas: The Bureau of Land Management (BLM) currently has over 47,000 head of wild horses in holding facilities nationwide, costing taxpayers \$44 million (57% of BLM's annual horse & burro budget), and

Whereas: BLM can, on an average annual basis, adopt out less than 3,000 head per year, and

Whereas: The currently used fertility control methods are not adequate at controlling population growth and

Whereas: The "Conrad Burns' Rider" in the FY 2005 Consolidated Appropriations Act amended the Wild Free-Roaming Horse and Burro Act (WFRHBA) to read:

"(e) SALE OF EXCESS ANIMALS.---

(1) In General.---Any excess animal or the remains of an excess animal shall be sold if --

"(A) the excess animal is more than 10 years of age: or

"(B) the excess animal has been offered unsuccessfully for adoption at least 3 times.

(2) METHOD OF SALE.---An excess animal that meets either of the criteria in paragraph (1) shall be made available for sale without limitation including through auction to the highest bidder, at local sale yards or other convenient livestock selling facilities, until such time as ---

"(A) all excess animals offered for sale are sold: or

"(B) the appropriate management level, as determined by the Secretary; is attained in all areas occupied by wild free-roaming horses and burros.

(4) EFFECT OF SALE---Any excess animal sold under this provision shall no longer be considered to be a wild free-roaming horse or burro for purposes of this Act".

Whereas: The "Rahall Amendment" (below) was added to the FY 2006 Interior Appropriations Act, which repealed the "Burns' Rider." This amendment was adopted again in the FY2007 Interior Appropriations by voice vote, and has since been in place.

(PL 111-88 123 Stat. 2907): Appropriations herein made shall not be available for the destruction of healthy, un-adopted, wild horses and burros in the care of the Bureau of Land Management or its contractors or for the sale of wild horses and burros that results in their destruction for processing into commercial products.

Whereas: Selling the excess horses currently in holding facilities would allow BLM to better manage a sustainable number of horses on the range within the current budget,

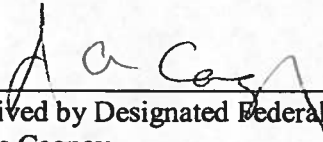
Therefore Be It Resolved: the Northwest Colorado Resource Advisory Council requests the National Wild Horse and Burro Advisory Board request the Bureau of Land Management and the Department of the Interior to follow the Wild Free-Roaming Horse and Burro Act and sell the excess horses without limitation.

Be It Further Resolved: the Northwest Colorado Resource Advisory Council encourages and supports the National Wild Horse and Burro Advisory Board request Congress and the President of The United States to strike the above Rahall Amendment Rider which currently prevents the unrestricted sale of horses and burros. This rider is costing U.S. taxpayers \$44 million per year (FY 2012) that could be put to better use.

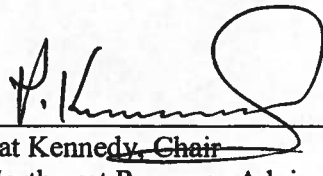
Be It Further Resolved: the Northwest Colorado Resource Advisory Council supports an amendment that would prohibit the long-term holding of culled wild horses and burros while maintaining appropriate management levels of wild horses and burros on the range.

Be It Further Resolved: the Northwest Colorado Resource Advisory Council supports fertility control, including sterilization that is efficient and cost effective.

Passed, approved, and adopted August 23, 2012.



Received by Designated Federal Officer
James Cagney



Pat Kennedy, Chair
Northwest Resource Advisory Council