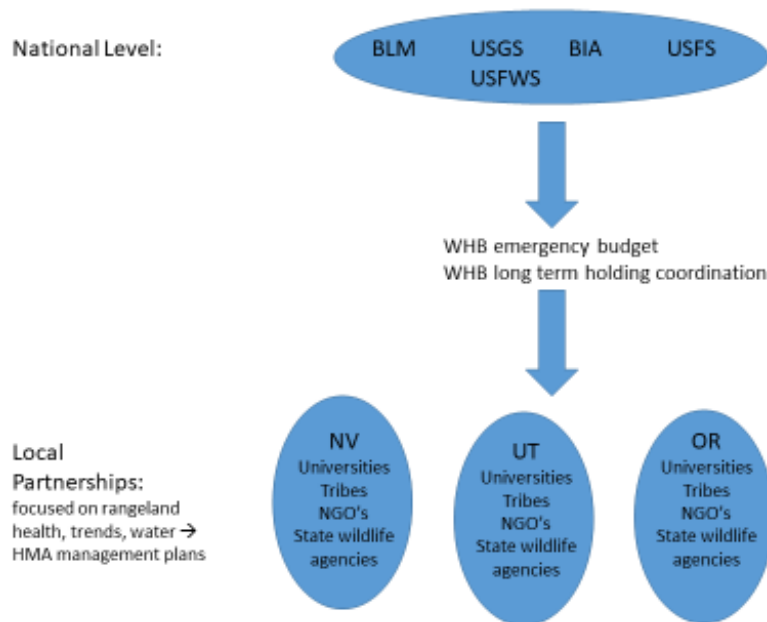


## **National Wild Horse and Burro Advisory Board Meeting June 2023 Recommendations**

- (1) Removals coupled with meaningful, impactful fertility control will improve the health and welfare of free-roaming horses and burros as well as rangeland health, and will foster diverse, bipartisan, broad support. This will help reflect the need for robust, long term funding from Congress. Since “fertility control” is the common interest of so many interested publics, the Board recommends that BLM and the USFS develop operational plans outlining how robust, meaningful, programmatic fertility control will be incorporated into HMA and Territory management plans. The Board recognizes that specific HMA/Territory fertility control plans have not been developed, and that each HMA/Territory will require a different approach.

This effort can also serve as demonstration sites, which can also validate PopEquus.

- (2) Due to protracted drought and other climate related issues in the West, the board recommends that the BLM and USFS begin determining the process of analysis that will enable locally relevant, short- and long-term range health considerations to guide decisions towards determining AML.
- (3) The BLM and the USFS should further centralize their respective WH&B programs to increase the program’s effectiveness and their ability to respond to emergencies. Specifically, we recommend:
  - a. Continuing to manage long-term holding nationally to facilitate animal movements and better coordinate budgets among different states and HMAs.
  - b. Advocating for establishment of a centrally administered, separate budget from new appropriations for emergency gathers so that states can follow through on long-term, strategic plans to gather and contracept their horse populations.
  - c. Developing budgets across multiple years would enable BLM to create long-term strategic management plans.



- (4) The Board recommends that the BLM and the USFS explore creative ways to garner additional funding sources and capacities (as allowed by law or statute) outside of the appropriations process that will enable effective management of horse and burro populations (e.g., Colorado’s Senate Bill 23-275). Specifically:
  - a. Proactively facilitating development of partnerships that would augment efforts to professionally collect local data on rangeland health trends, which can be incorporated into agency plans.
- (5) The board recommends that the BLM and USFS request consultations with Tribal Governments and initiate and/or maintain discussions with other government entities responsible for management of free-roaming horse populations to ensure actions taken in HMAs and on Territories are not undermined by emigration or immigration of horses and burros from other areas.
- (6) The board recommends that the USFS continue to advocate for its own separate budget for management of wild, free-roaming horses and burros, given that 20% of the total free-roaming population is on USFS land.
- (7) The Board supports the commitment of the agency to the CAWP and recommends continuing internal training and increasing the level of public educational opportunities.
- (8) The board recommends continually refining and improving the level of care, handling and treatment provided by the WH&B Program. Specifically, we recommend CAWP bolster and expand guidelines for transportation and quarantine procedures.