

# Finding A Way Forward for Wild Horses and Burros: Opportunities and Obligations



Nancy Perry  
*Senior Vice President Government Relations*  
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# Common Goals for Rangeland & Horses



Ecosystem  
health

Humane  
treatment

Fiscal  
Responsibility

Long-term  
Vision

# Our Proposal

- Humane groups are actively exploring options
- ASPCA, Return to Freedom, HSUS, and stakeholders in Nevada and Utah in discussion
- October, 2017 proposed multi-prong management strategy to Secretary Zinke
- Conversations are ongoing
- Time sensitive

# Proposal Summary

## Critical Components:

- 1) **Gathers and Removals:** Prioritize densely populated HMAs where rangeland and wildlife are impacted.
- 2) **Fertility Control:** Treat gathered horses with fertility control prior to being returned to the range.
- 3) **Relocation:** Relocate horses from range and current holding facilities to large cost-effective pasture facilities funded through public-private partnerships.
- 4) **Adoptions:** Promote adoptions to reduce captive populations and costs.

# Strategic Elements

• *Urgency*

• *Prevention*

• *Streamlining*

• *Marketing*

# Holistic Management Approach is Key

- The four tiers of this approach – gathers and removals, fertility treatment, public-private partnerships, and adoptions – are crucial to the ultimate success of the program.
- Failure to effectively implement any part of this program jeopardizes the success of a holistic and sustainable wild horse and burro program.**



# New Sales Policy

- July 2018 – BLM issues IM No. 2018-066, removing safeguards from 2014 wild horse and burro sales policy
- 2014 policy put in place after revelation that 1700 federally protected mustangs were sold to slaughter
- Anti-slaughter protections stripped
  - Up to 25 horses can be purchased (vs. 4 horses)
  - No time period (vs. within 6-month period)
  - No reporting of concerns
  - No database of problem buyers
- Inadequate legal protection in contract
- Jeopardizes support for removals

# Roundup Protocols



- Minimize helicopter gathers
- Humane safeguards (CAWP)
- Training and proper restrictions for contractors



# Political Realities

**We cannot:**

1. Do nothing
2. Kill as management approach (“euthanasia”)
3. Sell for slaughter



# We must walk this path together.

