

Director James Caswell, Bureau of Land Management

U.S. Bureau of Land Management, Office of Public Affairs
1849 C St NW, #5655 MIB; Washington, DC 20240
ph: 202-208-3801, 202-452-5125; fax: 202-452-5124
email: James_Caswell@blm.gov, woinfo@blm.gov

The Honorable Representative _____

U.S. House of Representatives
Washington, D.C. 20510

The Honorable Senators _____

The U.S. Senate, U.S. Capitol Building
Washington, D.C. 20510

Dear Director Caswell, Senators and Representative:

The Bureau of Land Management oversees federal land that belongs to all Americans. The mustangs who roam these plains are our horses. Yet BLM seems exclusively devoted to over three million privately held cattle grazing on the same federal land.

BLM presently holds more horses in confinement than are left in the wild. I am shocked the agency intends to kill the captive wild horses it cannot afford to maintain after years of negligent management. I ask BLM, and my elected officials in Congress, to advocate the reinstatement of these magnificent creatures in their natural range.

The present system doesn't work. To appease cattle ranchers, BLM captures more wild horses than it can adopt out. A plan announced at a Wild Horse and Burro Advisory Board meeting (6/30/08), calls for the phase out of BLM compounds where some 22,000 horses taken from the range now live.

This "solution" is unacceptable to all American citizens except the livestock lobby. By the time BLM completes its round-ups for 2008, as many as 30,000 wild horses may be needlessly slaughtered.

I strongly urge BLM to integrate non-violent control methods — such as range expansion in conjunction with the National Park Service and intensified contraception programs. A cap on permits to hunt mountain lions would also let natural predation curb mustang numbers.

BLM typically finds adoptive homes for just 2000 to 3000 horses a year. Yet the agency has removed tens of thousands of wild horses for decades. If BLM cannot devise a better plan than mass slaughter, Congress needs to step in to save America's last wild horses.

For over 30 years, the Wild Free-Roaming Horses and Burro Act of 1971 preserved "wild free-roaming horses and burros," as "living symbols of the historic and pioneer spirit of the West." The law mandates horses be "considered...an integral part of the system of public lands." The government needs to adhere to this law by supervising land to protect wild horses — not kill them.

Thank you,