Wild Horses: Selective Breeding and Roundups Are Driving Herds To Extinction

The Bureau of Land Management (BLM) and the U.S. Forest Service are undermining the long-term survival of native species American wild horses

A family of wild horses that lives in a remote forest have symbiotically grazed-in a fire-break, which is protecting a forest of champion old-growth conifirs against catastrophic wildfire.

YREKA, CA, UNITED STATES, October 3, 2021 /EINPresswire.com/ -- The Bureau of Land Management ('BLM') is arguably guilty of willful ignorance in the ongoing grossly negligent management of native species American wild horses.

Moreover, the BLM is guilty of intentionally spreading misinformation about native species wild horses, by misinforming the public and elected officials with made-up 'facts' that are contrary of genuine science.

> FACT: Mountain lions, bears, wolves, and coyotes are all the co-evolved predators of wild horses in North America"
>
> *William E. Simpson II - Naturalist*

One example, is this false statement made by the BLM:

"Wild horses have no natural predators ..."

This a manifestly false statement promoted by the BLM in order to deceive the public into thinking that their management using roundups and drugging wild horses with PZP is the only alternative, which is contrary to facts and available alternatives.

That false *statement appears in a so-called management plan that was presented to the Congress of The United States in writing titled; 'Report To Congress – Management Options For A Sustainable Wild Horse And Burro Program'.

*Executive Summary, Page-1, paragraph 5:

https://www.blm.gov/sites/blm.gov/files/wildhorse_2018ReporttoCongress.pdf

FACT: Mountain lions, bears, wolves, and coyotes are all the co-evolved predators of wild horses in North America. [1]

Only a corrupted or ignorant agency or organization would propose to manage any resource based upon misinformation.

The BLM is intentionally engaged in a campaign of roundups designed to reduce wild horse populations to sub-minimal levels required for genetic vigor.

According to the best available science, when herds are brought down to populations under the minimum of 250 breeding adult wild horses, inbreeding begins, which leads to the loss of genetic vigor and results in genetic erosion.

The term 'Appropriate Management Level' ('AML') is an oxymoron.

There is nothing that is genetically or ecologically 'appropriate' about reducing the population of any species of protected wildlife below the minimum population required to maintain genetic strength and diversity.

Wild Horses are 'keystone herbivores' and are critical components in a balanced ecosystem: Image from Rewilding Europe

A herd of wild horses seen in an alpine riparian area of a wilderness area. Documeted evidence proves wild horses have been using this riparian area and spring for centuries without any ill effects. Photo: William E. Simpson II

Further exacerbating this situation is that many of the mares that are allowed to remain on the range, or that are subsequently released back onto the range by the BLM (merely a photo-op for the BLM), are treated with chemicals that render mares infertile (non-breeding).

Selective Breeding of Native Species American Wild Horses Using Drugs

The BLM and wild horse non-profit organizations and activists who are engaged in selective breeding of native species American wild horses are meddling with natural processes that are critical for the long-term survival of the species.

When a human decides which animals get to breed and/or which do not, that is selective breeding. And that is contrary to the intent of the Wild Free-Roaming Horses and Burros Act (WFRHBA).

Selective breeding of wild horses by humans disintermediates the evolutionary process of 'Natural Selection', which is critical to the continued survival and genetic vigor of wild horses. It is an essential evolutionary process in any co-evolved predator-prey relationship. This is why it is flawed management to maintain wild horse populations that are commingled with livestock populations in Herd Areas that have been made devoid of apex predators. This is great for livestock production, but terrible for wild horses, which require and depend upon their co-evolved predators for their genetic vigor and population equilibrium within any ecosystem.

Regardless of 'good intentions' by some wild horse non-profit organizations and activists, doing the wrong things for wild horses is harmful and inexcusable.

Wild horses are natures reseeding experts. In this photo, grasses and plants are springing-forth from wild horse droppings. Unlike ruminants (deer, cattle, sheep) that digest virtually all the seeds they consume, wild horse droppings help native plants to thrive.

A family band of native species American wild horses is seen symbiotically reducing wildfire fuels off a forest floor, making the trees more fire resistant. Photo: William E. Simpson II

Excuses that posit the use of chemical contraception (PZP and GonaCon) on native species

American wild horses as the best solution for overpopulation are examples of a poor understanding of evolutionary science. And this ignorance is driving the irreversible damage that is being done to the remaining populations of American wild horses.

Egregiously, these highly-flawed management tactics are being used by the BLM and non-profit organizations while concurrently there exists a superior paradigm for managing wild horses naturally and allowing them to remain truly 'wild and free'. That 'superior paradigm' allows wild horses to resume their longstanding evolutionary roles in the wilderness as keystone herbivores, which balance ecosystems and help to mitigate the intensity and frequency of wildfires via reductions of prodigious grass and brush.

An article at GrazeLIFE explains this novel paradigm in greater detail: https://grazelife.com/blog/wild-horse-fire-brigade-lessons-in-rebalancing-north-american-ecosystems-by-rewilding-equids/

"Fertility control in free□roaming wildlife populations has been associated with changes in immigration (Ramsey 2005; Merrill, Cooch & Curtis 2006), decreased group fidelity (Nuñez et al. 2009; Madosky et al. 2010), increased survival (Caughley, Pech & Grice 1992; Kirkpatrick & Turner 2007; Williams et al. 2007), altered reproductive behavior (Nuñez, Adelman & Rubenstein 2010; Ransom, Cade & Hobbs 2010) and shifted phenology (Ransom, Hobbs & Bruemmer 2013)" ~ Ecological feedbacks can reduce population□level efficacy of wildlife fertility control. [2]

The use of chemicals to control wild horse populations (wildlife) disintermediates evolutionary Natural Selection and leads to genetic erosion and social disruptions in wild horses (equids). And using chemicals offers no genuine long-term sustainable benefits for either side of the wild horse management debate. [2]

MORE: https://www.einnews.com/pr_news/550887360/wild-horses-wild-horse-management-non-profit-organizations-wrong-chemical-use-on-wildlife-populations-flawed

Aside from the social breakdown of family bands, genetic erosion and selective breeding that are all part of using PZP on free-roaming native species American wild horses, we find:

"Even on a large animal struck correctly, the dart (contraceptive PZP and GonaCon darts) can cause hemorrhage and hematoma. Misplaced shots can break bones or even kill the animal" (Thomas and Marburger 1964). Report--Muzzle report can cause problems in darting either captive or free-ranging animals. In captive situations, the noise can be more disturbing to animals than getting struck with a dart. Disturbed animals are then more difficult to approach, or the entire group of animals may run away" ~ Page 32; Overview of Delivery Systems for the Administration of Contraceptive to Wildlife", by Terry J. Kreeger

MORE: https://www.einpresswire.com/article/543923114/can-wild-horse-non-profit-advocates-save-america-s-wild-horses-by-drugging-them

Violating The Intent of the 1971 Wild Free Roaming Wild Horse and Burro Protection Act.

Stalking and shooting wild horses with powerful gas-powered firearms is in itself a 'harassment' of wild horses and is an arguable violation of both the intent and codified specifications of the 1971 Wild Free Roaming Wild Horse and Burro Protection Act.

Based-on Terry J. Keeger's study, by promoting the use of PZP and using PZP on American wild horses, non-profit organizations who support PZP, are arguably using donation funds to encourage harming wild horses in violation of the intent of very Act that seeks to protect them.

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#Wild Horses, #WildHorses, #BureauofLandManagement, #USFS, #Ecology, #Rewilding

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