

National Media Coverage Details New Plan To Reduce Wildfire Called 'Wild Horse Fire Brigade'

Studies suggest that wild horses offer cost-effective wildfire mitigation on public lands via year-round management of grass and brush

YREKA, CALIFORNIA, UNITED STATES, September 8, 2022 /EINPresswire.com/ -- Over the past 180-days, a new natural, holistic and cost-effective plan to reduce the frequency, size and intensity of catastrophic wildfires has caught the attention of national and regional news media and publications.

Examples of these media outlets include:

NPR National Radio: 'Wild Horses Could Keep Wildfire At Bay'

<https://www.npr.org/2022/07/08/1110474146/wild-horses-could-keep-wildfire-at-bay>



'Wild Horse Fire Brigade' proposes reestablishing the collapsed herbivory to reduce wildfires in the western United States, where deer populations have dropped very significantly"

Deb Ferns, President 'Wild Horse Fire Brigade'

Philanthropy Magazine: 'Letting Wild Horses Run Free to Curb Wildfires'

<https://www.philanthropy.com/article/letting-wild-horses-run-free-to-curb-wildfires>

ABC NEWSWATCH 12 KDRV: 'More wild horses equals less fire fuels'

https://www.kdrv.com/news/top-stories/more-wild-horses-equals-less-fire-fuels/article_f0c57e12-c70d-11ec-8cca-4b6fcee463b9.html



Family of wild horses that lives in a remote forest have symbiotically grazed-in a fire-break, cost-effectively providing a year-round fire break protecting a forest

THE HILL: 'Equilibrium/Sustainability — Wild horses could help temper Western wildfires'

<https://thehill.com/policy/equilibrium-sustainability/3585146-equilibrium-sustainability-wild-horses-could-help-temper-western-wildfires/>

CBS Investigative News Colorado: 'Mustangs Used For Wildfire Mitigation? Nonprofit Proposes Possible Solution To Wild Horse Debate'

<https://www.cbsnews.com/colorado/news/mustangs-wildfire-mitigation-rancher-solution-wild-horse-debate/>

ABC NEWS 15 Arizona: 'Could horses be the solution to preventing wildfires in our state?'

<https://www.abc15.com/weather/impact-earth/could-horses-be-the-solution-to-preventing-wildfires-in-our-state>

"The plan known as 'Wild Horse Fire Brigade' proposes reestablishing the collapsed herbivory to reduce wildfires in the western United States, where deer populations have dropped very significantly" said Deb Ferns, President of the all-volunteer non-profit organization 'Wild Horse Fire Brigade'.

Extensive scientific studies show that; when populations of large-bodied herbivores collapse, catastrophic wildfires evolve.

(See W.J. Ripple – Collapse of the world's largest herbivores:

<https://www.science.org/doi/10.1126/sciadv.1400103>)

McKinney Fire

Incident Type: Wildfire
Updated: 3 hrs. ago
Size: 60,138 Acres
Contained: 99%

Unit Information
Klamath National Forest
U.S. Forest Service
1711 S. Main St
Yreka, CA 96097

Final McKinney Fire Update 8/19/2022
McKinney Fire Wildfire
News: 8/19/2022

Location: Siskiyou County, CA
Size: 60,392 acres
Percent Contained: 95 %
Cause: Under Investigation
Vegetation: Timber (Litter and Understory), Tall Grass, and Brush

USFS Data show 'Grass and Brush' as key wildfire fuels



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

In California, deer populations have dropped by at least 2-million deer over the past 40-years, and in Oregon, deer populations are down by about 500,000.

These missing deer had previously been abating approximately 3-million tons of annual grass and brush just in California and Oregon.

That massive tonnage of annually recurring wildfire fuel is now subjected to longer, hotter summers resulting from climate change, making these prodigious fuels more volatile over an extended period of time. The result is a perfect setup for the evolution of the more frequent, abnormally large, super-hot wildfires that we are now experiencing.

Wildfire forensic data over the past 5-years from InciWeb shows that over 80% of catastrophic wildfires in Oregon and California involve 'grass and brush' as the key fuels.

An example of that data was reported by the USFS in regard to the recent McKinney Fire, that devastated over 60,000 acres of remote wilderness, which resulted in disastrous post-wildfire erosion and a debris-flow that killed tens of thousands of salmon, steel-head, trout and other fishes and aquatic life in the Klamath River.

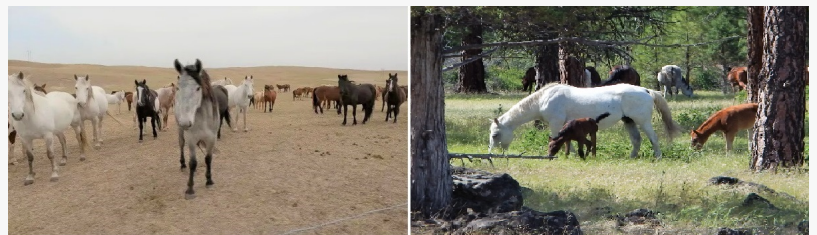
SEE: Field & Stream article: 'Debris from California Wildfire Causes Massive Fish Kill on the Klamath River'

<https://www.fieldandstream.com/conservation/klamath-river-fish-kill-mckinney-fire/>

According to CALFIRE, grass and brush are 'flashy fuels', which are also known as 1-hour class



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



Left Photo: CBS 4 Denver. BLM's Plan for Wild Horses

Right Photo: William E. Simpson II. Nature's Plan

The horses seen in the CBS image above on the left are wild horses that were rounded-up by the Bureau of Land Management (BLM) and relocated to the barren ground of the failed Haythorn cattle ranch in Maxwell Nebraska. Many decades of poor land management and over-grazing of these lands has stripped-off most of the native cover crop, leaving unproductive ground. The horses seen in the CBS photo are just part of the approximate 900 wild horses that are no longer living naturally as 'wild and free' horses pursuant to the intent of the 1971 Wild Free-Roaming Horses and Burros Act (WFRHBA). Now, as captive horses, they must be cared-for at great taxpayer expense. The BLM pays the Haythorn family \$1-million annually to feed these now captive horses, which is just part of their flawed off-range grazing program nationally, costing taxpayers nearly \$100-million annually. Adding financial insult to injury, these horses will also require additional care that was unneeded when they were wild, including but not limited to population control. This is a human-created problem, because these horses are not living among their co-evolved predators (bears, mountain lions, wolves and coyotes). Science proves that wild horse must be allowed to live in immediate proximity to their co-evolved natural predators that provide the critical benefits of evolutionary Natural Selection. This evolved natural process eliminates sick, diseased and elderly horses from the herd, thereby maintaining the genetic vigor of the species. Therefore, as is the BLM's reckless practice, these captive horses will be treated with dangerous chemicals, like 'PZP' and 'GonaCon' that are posited as so-called 'contraception'. The use of PZP and/or GonaCon is by definition Selective Breeding, which science shows leads to genetic erosion and ultimately genetic defects. Additionally, taxpayers are further burdened with the BLM's national wild horse contraception program, costing tens of \$-millions in additional expenses that must be shouldered by taxpayers. The photo on the right, shows wild horses naturally grazing in a forest. They are Nature's keystone herbivores and they symbiotically reduce and maintain wildfire fuels (grass and brush). Their wildfire grazing is 'symbiotic' because horses, with a simple stomach, pass most of the seeds they consume undigested and intact and able to germinate in their droppings. This is naturally-evolved process that helps complete the life-cycle of the grasses and plants horses consume by spreading the undigested seeds in their humus and biome-rich dung. Wild horses also make trees more fire resistant by reducing flashy grass and brush wildfire fuels under and around trees, as well as breaking-off dead limbs from the trees (aka: fire ladders) via scratching, as well as fertilizing these trees, which they also use for year-round shelter.

Ultimately, keeping wild horses from living in our critical wilderness areas and putting them into captivity in expensive and ecologically obtuse off-range holding is like putting the fire department in jail during wildfire season. There is a natural, holistic and humane solution to managing America's wild horses!

Learn about a proven solution at: <https://www.WildHorseFireBrigade.org>

Side by side comparison of wild horse management; Bureau of Land Management vs. Wild Horse Fire Brigade: Obviously, BLM's method is costly to taxpayers and adversely impacts wildfire herbivory

fuels. One-hour class fuels are vegetative materials that are a quarter-inch in diameter or smaller, and are key wildfire fuels on the landscape. These same vegetative wildfire fuels happen to be the natural forage for native species American wild horses.

These grass and brush fuels are well-known to kindle fire, burn extremely hot, and carry fire to other heavier fuels and structures.

The reduction these fuels is a very effective method for the reduction of ignition and spread of wildfire, and is accomplished naturally, year-round by native herbivores, such as the wild horses.

It will require many decades of greatly improved wildfire management to reestablish the collapsed deer populations in California and Oregon.

But as it so happens, wild horses are immediately available to all government authorities (cities, counties and states) under the 'Humane Transfer of Excess Animals Act' (H.R. 1625) from taxpayer-funded off-range holding facilities managed by the Bureau of Land Management ('BLM').

H.R. 1625 and other informational resources available here:

<https://www.wildhorsefirebrigade.org/downloads>

Upon transfer of wild horses under this existing law (H.R. 1625), these horses are provided with protections for their health, safety and welfare, and become 'work animals' (under definition of the Act). Then, as is the current case with livestock, these horses can be deployed through cooperative wildfire grazing agreements (already being done with cattle and sheep on some USFS lands) into ecologically and economically appropriate remote wilderness areas that are at grave risk from catastrophic wildfire.

That said, horses are significantly more ecologically appropriate in wilderness areas over ruminant livestock (cattle, sheep and goat).

This is because horses don't digest the seeds of the north American native flora (grasses and plants) they eat. In fact, via the 1.8 million years of co-evolution between north American wild horses and flora, horses actually complete the life-cycles of the grasses and plants they eat by naturally reseeding through their droppings.

Scientific studies prove that; unlike cattle, sheep and goats that as ruminants digest all the seeds they consume, horses pass most of the seeds they eat onto the landscape in their droppings, intact and able to germinate. The digestive system of horses benefits the other co-evolved fauna that also depend upon the sustainability of these grasses and plants for their sustenance. Fauna which benefit from wild horses reseeding plants and grasses include; deer and a host of other mammals, birds and even pollinators.

We also see mention of this wisdom in the Wild Free-Roaming Horse and Burro Act (WFRHBA) of 1971, where in regard to wild horses, Congress stated: "...they contribute to the diversity of life forms within the Nation..."

Incredibly, we now have more wild horses in captivity than wild in America. And wild horses that have been rounded-up, have been branded and placed into expensive taxpayer-funded confinement by the BLM, and are now non-breeding animals (genetically molested by the BLM; sterilized). As disturbing as this mismanagement of wild horses is, the 65,000+ wild horses currently being held in confinement by the BLM remain extremely useful in cost-effectively reducing wildfire fuels, and can do so year-round if properly rewilded into remote wilderness areas that are both ecologically and economically appropriate.

And via their deployment into wildfire grazing roles to reduce wildfire, taxpayers no longer need to foot-the-bill for the \$150-million per-year spent by the BLM to hold these wild horses in captivity and feed them grass, and these wild horses regain their freedom.

"There is no doubt that the collapsed herbivory resulting from bad natural resource management has resulted in the evolution of the pyrocene era we are now experiencing, and the obvious solution is the reestablishment of our native species herbivore populations. The good news is that we can fix this problem if we act soon"; said William E. Simpson II, a wild horse ethnologist and Founder of the all-volunteer non-profit called Wild Horse Fire Brigade.

Mr. Simpson was the principal investigator in a 5-year-long continuous study of the behavioral ecology of wild horses and their impact on wilderness and wildfire.

The Executive Summary of Simpson's Study can be read as a PDF here:

https://www.wildhorsefirebrigade.org/files/ugd/b50928_b546b19ef08441349993b0d3fd8111eb.pdf

As it turned-out, Mr. Simpson's thesis was tested by an actual wildfire (38,000 acre Klamathon Fire) where the symbiotically grazed areas by the herd of wild horses Simpson studies provided safe zones for CALFIRE men and equipment as well as natural fire-breaks, which aided CALFIRE's suppression efforts and helped save the Forest and wildlife of the Cascade Siskiyou National Monument during that 2018 wildfire.

Simpson's five-year Study is published as an abstract at GrazeLIFE: 'Wild horse fire brigade: lessons in rebalancing North American ecosystems by rewilding equids'

<https://grazelife.com/blog/wild-horse-fire-brigade-lessons-in-rebalancing-north-american-ecosystems-by-rewilding-equids/>

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This press release can be viewed online at: <https://www.einpresswire.com/article/589827579>

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