

# Costly Wild Horse Management: Exposing The Crutches Of A Failed Paradigm Killing American Wild Horses

*Some wild horse advocates and nonprofits are promoting band-aid solutions perpetuating failed management that is monetarily and genetically costly*

YREKA, CA, US, December 22, 2022 /EINPresswire.com/ -- The assumption that the '[1971 Free Roaming Wild Horse and Burro Protection Act](#)' ('1971 Act') is protecting American wild horses today is incorrect.

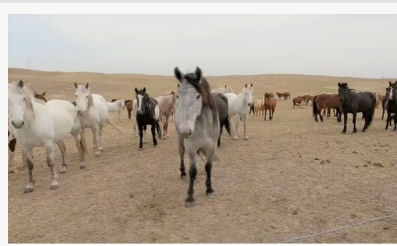
It's a fact that over the past 50+ years since the 1971 Act was passed, socioeconomic impacts on land management policies driven by consumerism have resulted in the highly-flawed, inhumane management of wild horses witnessed today.

Like flies to any dying or dead animal, the ineffective and failing wild horse management program was quickly surrounded by money-motivated people and wild horse nonprofit organizations who proffer numerous costly band-aids, which arguably benefit them far more than the wild horses.

Instead of learning from mistakes and implementing a genuine management solution that is most beneficial for wild horses, the band-aids that are promoted are highly flawed and conflict with the highest and best interests of the so-called 'protected' wild horses.

Core Flaw in Wild Horse Management Today:

The core flaw in wild horse management program today is that managers are keeping wild



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 posted 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



There is also a recently discovered more subtle form of competition representing another facet of Natural Selection, which occurs within in harems (mares) of family bands for the position of 'lead mare'.

During 8-years living-among and studying free roaming wild horses in an ecologically balanced wilderness, wild horse ethologist William E. Simpson II has discovered and recorded that the offspring of a lead mare has a survival advantage over the offspring of lesser mares in the band harem. This is because the band stallion and harem will stick with the lead mare, and the lead mare will wait as long as it takes for her new foal to gain it's strength to travel with the band.



Author - Naturalist William E. Simpson II is greeted by a wild mountain stallion in the Soda Mountain Wilderness area

On the other hand, an omega mare who has a new foal that requires time to stand and be ready to travel with the family band may be faced with a difficult decision. If the lead mare moves the band before the omega mare's foal is ready to travel, the omega mare will have to decide to stay behind with her foal, or abandon the foal and leave with the band. Either way, the omega mare's foal has a lower rate of survival without the protection of the band and it's stallion.

Examining flawed band-aids being applied to failed management:

1) Roundups and subsequent warehousing of captured wild horses into off-range feed lots are argued as one manner of managing wild horse populations in areas devoid of apex predators. These methods are very costly (>\$150-M/year) for taxpayers (lots of personnel, equipment, aircraft, feeding horses hay, etc), and they are brutal, inhumane and ecologically inappropriate given that such actions do not correct the core problem.

Roundups also result in ecological damage to landscapes due to stampedes, where dozens of wild horses running for their very lives from helicopters trample the landscape, injuring and killing some flora and fauna. During helicopter roundups, wild horses are run for miles and beyond their natural ability, adversely impacting the health of horses. Pregnant mares spontaneously abort foals on-the-run, and new foals run their soft new hooves off and go lame and fall behind, ending up being eaten alive by coyotes; and,

2) So called 'contraception' (costing tens of \$-millions annually) is a nice sounding term for what is actually 'chemical sterilization' of mares using chemicals commonly known as 'PZP' and 'GonaCon', along with the castration of stallions. PZP and Gonacon are known to adversely

impact the social structure and hierarchy of the harem, where lead mares that sterilized can lose their status in the band,

One program known as 'Veterans For Mustangs' and the bill by the same name ([H.R.7631 — 117th Congress](#) (2021-2022) proposes to have military veterans using high-powered gas-operated rifles to shoot heavy darts/projectiles containing chemical sterilization compounds into wild horses, making a complete mockery of the intent of the 1971 Act, by stalking and shooting wild horses (aka: 'harassment'), making American wild horses into a carnival shooting gallery.

The wild horse nonprofit known as American Wild Horse Campaign also engages in this ludicrous and dangerous activity. Studies show horses shot in this manner can suffer from, bleeding, hematoma, broken bones, and death.

MORE ON 'PZP' and 'GonaCon': <https://www.einpresswire.com/article/553542481/decimation-of-wild-horses-continues-path-forward-plan-supported-by-non-profit-activist-organization-return-to-freedom>

"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.

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). Furthermore, using chemicals (PZP & GonaCon) is 'Selective Breeding' and leads to genetic decline.

MORE: [https://www.einnews.com/pr\\_news/550887360/wild-horses-wild-horse-management-non-profit-organizations-wrong-chemical-use-on-wildlife-populations-flawed](https://www.einnews.com/pr_news/550887360/wild-horses-wild-horse-management-non-profit-organizations-wrong-chemical-use-on-wildlife-populations-flawed)

In addition to 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 also find evidence of the following:

"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

3) Farming-out wild horses at taxpayer expense as so-called adoptable or trainable horses, also costs American taxpayers, since the BLM pays \$1,000 for each horse adopted.

As most wild horse advocates know, the 1971 act was passed to ostensibly protect wild horses. yet few parts of 1971 Act are being observed and followed by the Bureau of Land Management ('BLM') today.

Even the core intentions of the 1971 Act that are cited in its preamble are disrespected and ignored in the management of wild horses today by the very agency charged with protecting wild horses, the BLM. This is clearly the result of political pressures brought to bear on law and policy makers by the trillion-dollar corporations who provide campaign donations to politicians on both-sides of aisle.

The key sentence in the preamble to the 1971 Act states:

"It is the policy of Congress that wild free-roaming horses and burros shall be protected from capture, branding harassment, or death..."

The reality of life for wild horses in American today under the 1971 Act is quite different than what any outsider looking-in would believe having read the 1971 Act.

The reality today, over fifty years since the passing of the 1971 Act, is that the BLM does everything to wild horses that was originally prohibited under the 1971 Act.

The BLM regularly and aggressively; captures, brands and separates family members from each other, where stallions, mares and juveniles are sent into separate holding corrals even as family members scream for each other, causing tremendous emotional hardship for wild horse families. After segregating horses by sex and age, they are genetically molested where stallions are castrated and mares are chemically sterilized. This inhumanity transcends the prohibited 'harassment' cited in the 1971 Act.

It's a horrifically brutal and inhumane scene that is repeated annually dozens of times each year in America over the past 40-years.

The protests of wild horse advocates and wild horse nonprofits, in court and in the media, have yielded no change in the behavior of the BLM.

That's simply because the public servants at Government agencies are like soldiers carrying-out the orders that are handed-down from their superiors, who are essentially controlled by elected politicians who in turn are arguably beholden and influenced by campaign contributions from huge corporations.

A very simple example of the foregoing is relevant to the current [SAFE ACT \(H.R. 3355\)](#) that is languishing in the U.S. Senate.

The lawyers who drafted the Safe Act made sure there was a loophole for a major corporation (Nestle) who owns the second largest pet food company in Mexico Purina (conveniently located just-over the U.S. border in Mexico). In order to remain profitable, Purina requires a constant source of horse meat from America and elsewhere.

A review of the last draft of the SAFE Act showed that shipments of American horses for 'human consumption' outside the U.S. would be prohibited if the SAFE ACT passed. However, there is an arguable loophole; shipments of American horses for 'animal products' is not cited as being prohibited in the draft bill.

Since the installment of Deb Haaland as the head of the Department of Interior ('DOI'), which oversees the BLM, the brutal process of rounding-up wild horse families in holocaust fashion, have increased.

Wild Horses captured by the BLM and the United States Forest Service ('USFS') are then genetically molested where stallions are castrated and mares are sterilized using chemicals commonly known as 'PZP' and 'Gonacon'. These chemical are known 'genetic poisons' and end the natural life-cycles and genetic lines of wild horses.

No DNA (genetic) testing is performed by the BLM or USFS prior to ending gene-lines of processed wild horses using castration or chemical sterilization.

This practice is a form of 'selective breeding' and as science proves, ensures a loss of genetic diversity, resulting in genetic decline in wild horse herds, and ultimately lead to 'bottle-necking' and possible extinction of wild horse gene-lines, which contain the most robust equine genetics.

At some point soon, domestic horse breeders will need to breed-back to these robust genetic lines to reinvigorate domestic horse breeds, many of which are suffering from congenital defects and genetic diseases related to inbreeding over centuries.

Following this initial horror show, wild horses are then processed for allocation into so-called programs that are extremely costly to American taxpayers, and further punish wild horses emotionally.

The BLM sells its Adoption Incentive Program ('AIP') as a success and solution for getting rid of wild horses they have rounded up. However, combination of the AIP and other wild horse processing programs (prisoner programs, etc.) only places a small percentage of all the wild horses (about 5-7%) rounded-up into the hands of adopters or trainers who are paid \$1,000 (tax-dollars) by the BLM for each horse adopted.

Wild horses that are funneled into adoption and training programs are wild sentient beings, few of which will submit to any training program.

Wild horses adopted are made to submit to the demands of human trainers. Surprisingly, so-called horse 'trainers' fail to understand the wild nature and spirit of wild horses, as opposed to domestic horse breeds, which have been bred for the past 6,000 to serve the utility of humankind and are well-suited to training. This failure by people and trainers to understand wild horses and their behavioral ecology leads to a majority of wild horses placed in programs resisting training and ending-up at slaughter auctions for meat in the pet food industry, a horrific ending for innocent wild horses.

The Big Question: Is there a better solution to the current wild horse management debacle?

Answer: Absolutely!

There is a plan that provides a more humane, natural and cost-effective management paradigm for wild horses.

That plan is called the 'Natural Wildfire Abatement and Forest Protection Plan', also known as the 'Wild Horse Fire Brigade'.

Wild Horse Fire Brigade is a cost-effective solution for humanely managing wild horses naturally without keeping them on degraded ecologically collapsed landscapes that are being intensively used for commercial enterprises, including oil, gas, mineral and livestock production.

Keeping wild horses in areas where they are deemed to be in conflict with the interests of \$-Trillion/year corporations guarantees that wild horses will remain in a constant state of conflict with consumer-driven demands for public land use, resulting in the highly flawed and costly management concepts previously cited.

2022 MUSTANG SUMMIT Presentation on Wild Horses and Consumerism on YouTube:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=s3pCv0VgMOI>

What many people (including some wild horse advocates) fail to realize is that there are 115-million acres of designated critical wilderness where motorized vehicles and livestock production are prohibited due to law, and costly logistics.

Using just 20-million acres of this vast water and forage-rich wilderness area, up to 100,000 wild horses could be redistributed (rewilded/relocated) as family bands, at the rate of 1-horse per 200-acres; away from conflicts, ending the plight of wild horses.

This plan provides wild horses with habitat that is consistent with what they had enjoyed prior to the arrival of the Europeans in north America. Wild horses are completely at-home in the deep wilderness and had survived in such habitats for 1.7-million years in north America.

And via reestablishing wild horses into economically and ecologically appropriate wilderness areas, these keystone herbivores can once again re-balance ecosystems, and manage the now over-abundant grass and brush wildfire fuels. This natural symbiotic wildfire grazing reduces fuel loading and results in normalizing the wildfire regime, devolving super-fueled super-hot catastrophic wildfires back into the normal wildfire expected on the landscape that burns low, slow and cooler as a result of less fuel. This in turn saves forests, wildlife and watersheds from catastrophically hot wildfires.

LEARN MORE:

More about the many benefits of the Wild Horse Fire Brigade plan [HERE](#):

[https://www.wildhorsefirebrigade.org/files/ugd/b50928\\_b546b19ef08441349993b0d3fd8111eb.pdf](https://www.wildhorsefirebrigade.org/files/ugd/b50928_b546b19ef08441349993b0d3fd8111eb.pdf)

ReWilding Europe's wildfire-focused journal 'GrazeLIFE' published an abstract of the Study that supports the Wild Horse Fire Brigade plan online at:

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

NPR national radio has also published a story (with audio) online at:

<https://www.npr.org/2022/10/30/1131042723/preventing-wildfire-with-the-wild-horse-fire-brigade>

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