NATIONAL HORSE & BURRO RANGELAND MANAGEMENT COALITION
Advocating for commonsense, ecologically-sound approaches to managing horses and burros to promote healthy wildlife and rangelands for future generations

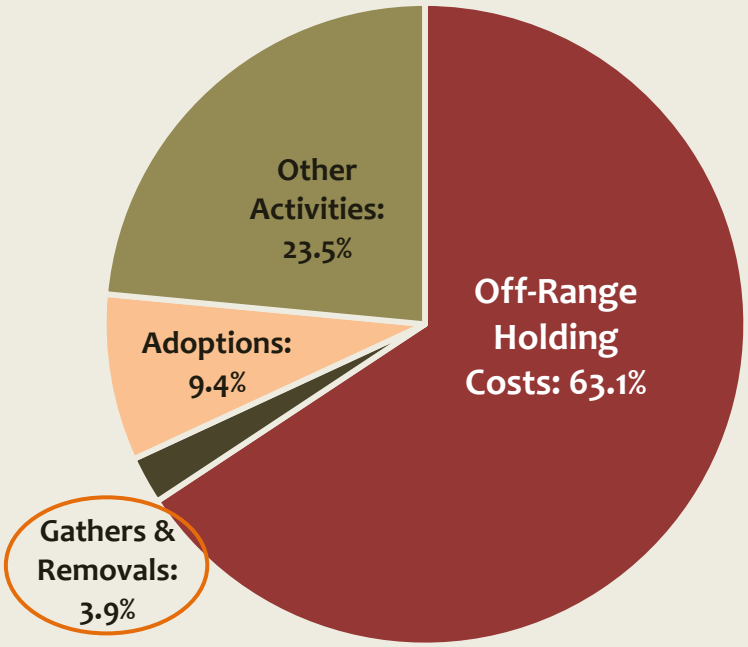
TAXPAYER DOLLARS

Wild Horse and Burro Facts

- BLM rangelands can support <27,000 horses and burros.
- There are currently >72,000 horses and burros on BLM ranges.
- Horse populations double every 4 years.
- There are >46,000 horses and burros in BLM off-range holding facilities.
- Taxpayers pay about $50 million per year to care for horses and burros in holding.

The biggest cost to the American public is leaving horses and burros on the range because of their long-term, negative environmental impacts. However, funding for on-range management continues to decrease.

BLM Wild Horse and Burro Program Fiscal Year 2016 Expenses




(Credit: BLM Nevada)

Horses in holding at the Northern Nevada Correctional Center.

In 2016, each horse or burro adopted into private care cost BLM an average of **>$2,500** in program costs.

Each animal kept in holding costs the BLM nearly **$50,000** over its lifetime.

In 2016, off-range holding costs amounted to nearly

$50 million

Between Fiscal Years 2012-2016…

Off-range holding costs have increased by **$6.5 million**

Gathers and removals spending has decreased by **$5 million**

Increasing funding for off-range holding fails to address the core issue of rangeland overpopulation.

Overpopulation of on-range horses and burros results in substantial financial costs to public land managers and private landholders, limiting multi-use yields (Bastian 1999).

In 2015, BLM spent about **$100,000** on implementing **population growth suppression measures** on **469 animals.**

BLM is investing **$11 million** over 5 years to research longer-lasting **fertility control methods,** inluding safe and humane spay/neuter methods.

Modeling Study: How Much do Various Management Scenarios Cost?

Simulations of a variety of management scenarios find that fertility control treatments reduce program costs, but **only as long as removal rates were maintained.** When fertility control treatments were utilized in conjunction with a decrease in removals, overall costs went up.

Overall, there was an inverse correlation between cost-effectiveness and average annual population sizes – cheaper management options corresponded to smaller population growth.

Contraceptive use did not eliminate the need to remove wild horses and burros from the range in any of the scenarios (Barthalow 2007).

Barthalow, J. 2007. Economic Benefit of Fertility Control in Wild Horse Populations. The Journal of Wildlife Management. 71(8):2811-2819.

Bastian, C.T., L.W. Van Tassell, A.C. Cotton, M.A. Smith. 1999. Opportunity costs related to feral horses: A Wyoming cast study. Journal of Rangeland Management. 52:104-112.

United States Department of the Interior. Bureau of Land Management. Wild Horse and Burro Quick Facts. 2016. <http://www.blm.gov/wo/st/en/prog/whbprogram/history_and_facts/quick_facts.html> Accessed March 2016.

United States Department of the Interior. Bureau of Land Management. BLM Announces New Research to Curb Population Growth and Improve Health of Wild Horse and Burro Herds. 2015. < http://www.blm.gov/wo/st/en/info/newsroom/2015/july/nr_07_07_2015.html> Accessed March 2016.

American Farm Bureau Federation • American Sheep Industry Association • Congressional Sportsmen's Foundation
Masters of Foxhounds Association • Mule Deer Foundation • National Association of Conservation Districts
National Association of Counties • National Association of State Departments of Agriculture
National Cattlemen's Beef Association • National Rifle Association • National Wildlife Refuge Association
Public Lands Council • Public Lands Foundation • Rocky Mountain Elk Foundation • Safari Club International
Society for Range Management • The Wildlife Society • Wild Sheep Foundation

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