



WILD HORSE AND BURRO PROGRAM

Highlights from Fiscal Year 2023

The Bureau of Land Management is tasked with the management and protection of wild horses and burros on public lands managed by the agency. In Fiscal Year 2023, the BLM continued to focus on efforts to slow population growth and reduce overpopulation on public lands to protect animal and land health. The agency also took steps to reduce costs to taxpayers, including rehoming more than 8,000 wild horses and burros from BLM facilities. To support this important work, the BLM continues to partner with public and private organizations that share the agency's goal of managing and protecting healthy wild horses and burros on healthy public lands.

ADOPTIONS, SALES AND TRANSFERS powered taxpayer savings

Adoptions, sales and transfers of wild horses and burros into new homes increased in Fiscal Year 2023, resulting in the **second-highest placement rate in more than 20 years**. Each animal placed into private care saves taxpayers approximately \$22,500 in what would otherwise be spent to provide lifetime care for the animal.

8,000+ animals placed into new homes = **\$181 million** est. taxpayer savings

Hosted **83 public events** and offered **over 8,000 animals**

Adoption Incentive Program continues to drive adoptions



Wild horses and burros adopted through the BLM's Adoption Incentive Program **accounted for approx. one of every three animals placed into new homes** in Fiscal Year 2023 (2,908 animals).

WELCOMED new partners

The BLM continued to recruit and fund public-private partnerships and inter-agency agreements to support its mission.

10 organizations were awarded funded agreements

- American Wild Horse Campaign
- Colorado State University
- Cornell University College of Veterinary Medicine
- Wild Horses of America Foundation
- High Desert Strategies
- Mustang Champions
- Northwest Wildlife Conservation Research
- Piceance Mustangs
- U.S. Department of Agriculture Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service's National Wildlife Research Center
- Utah State University Cooperative Extension



MANAGED wild populations

28

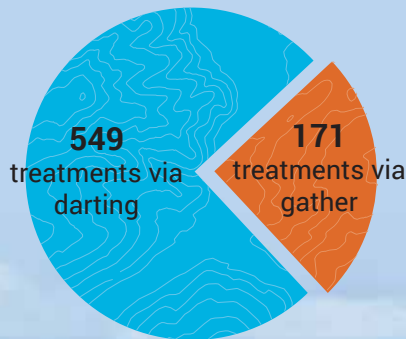
The BLM conducted 28 gather operations across the West focused on applying fertility control and reducing overpopulation

<0.35%

Safety during gathers remained a top priority. Reflecting the BLM's commitment to animal welfare, the loss rate during gathers was less than 0.35% of the animals gathered, which is well below the general threshold of 2% suggested for wildlife studies (Scasta, 2019)

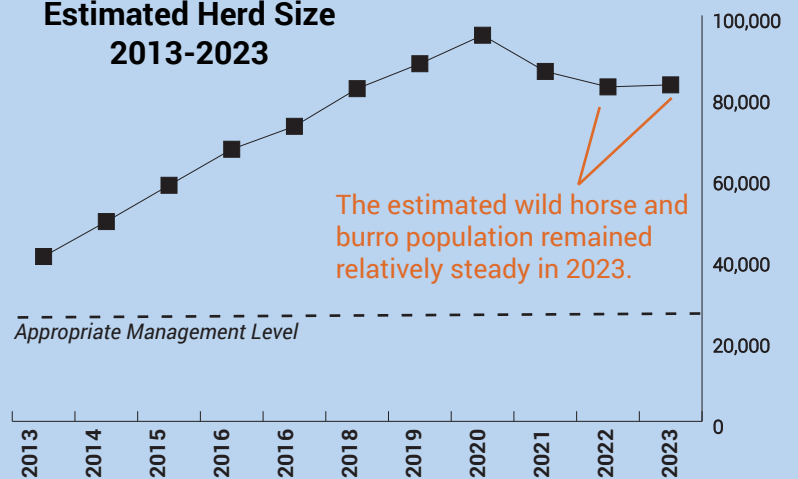
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About a quarter of all fertility control treatments were conducted via gather. Half of all fertility control treatments in Fiscal Year 2023 used GonaCon-Equine, compared to about a third of treatments in Fiscal Year 2022.



REDUCED herd growth

Estimated Herd Size 2013-2023

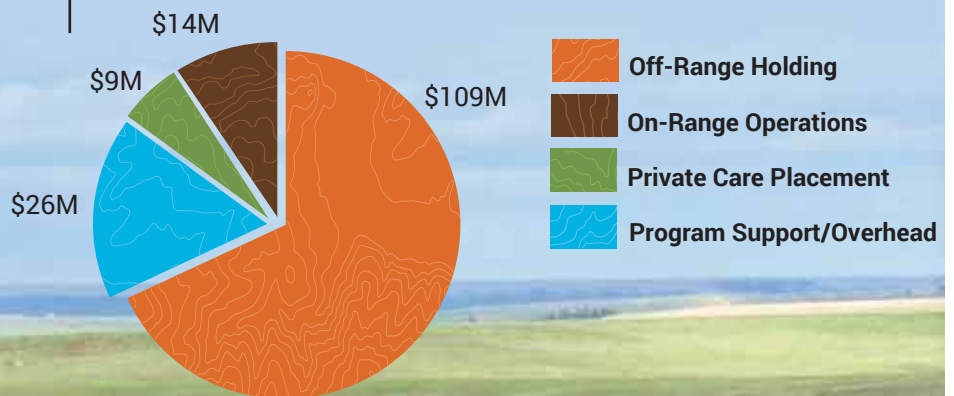


Despite recent success at reducing overpopulation and stabilizing herd growth, **the estimated wild horse and burro population (82,883 animals as of March 2023) remains three times appropriate management level** - the size at which the wild horse and burro population is in balance with rangeland resources and uses.

CARED for unadopted animals

The majority of expenditures continue to go towards caring for unadopted and unsold animals in off-range facilities. As herds reach appropriate management level, holding costs are projected to decrease.

Total expenditures: **\$158 million**



U.S. Department of the Interior
Bureau of Land Management
Wild Horse and Burro Program

For more information, visit [BLM.gov/WHB](https://www.blm.gov/WHB)
or call (866) 468-7826 •    