

NATIONAL WILD HORSE & BURRO ADVISORY BOARD

OCTOBER 10, 2018



MICHAEL STYLER
EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR



Wild Horse Funds

NRCS

USFWS

Utah DWR

Utah FFSL

Private Landowners

AFTER

50 miles Southwest
Of Milford, Utah

Bull hogging of dense
pinyon and juniper

Wet mow rabbit brush



BEFORE



AFTER - CHAINING & BULL HOG



BEFORE



AFTER - LOP & SCATTER



BEFORE

DATE: 05/10/2017
NO: E2017-001
ALLOT: STATELINE
PASS: STATELINE
CEDAR CITY F.O.

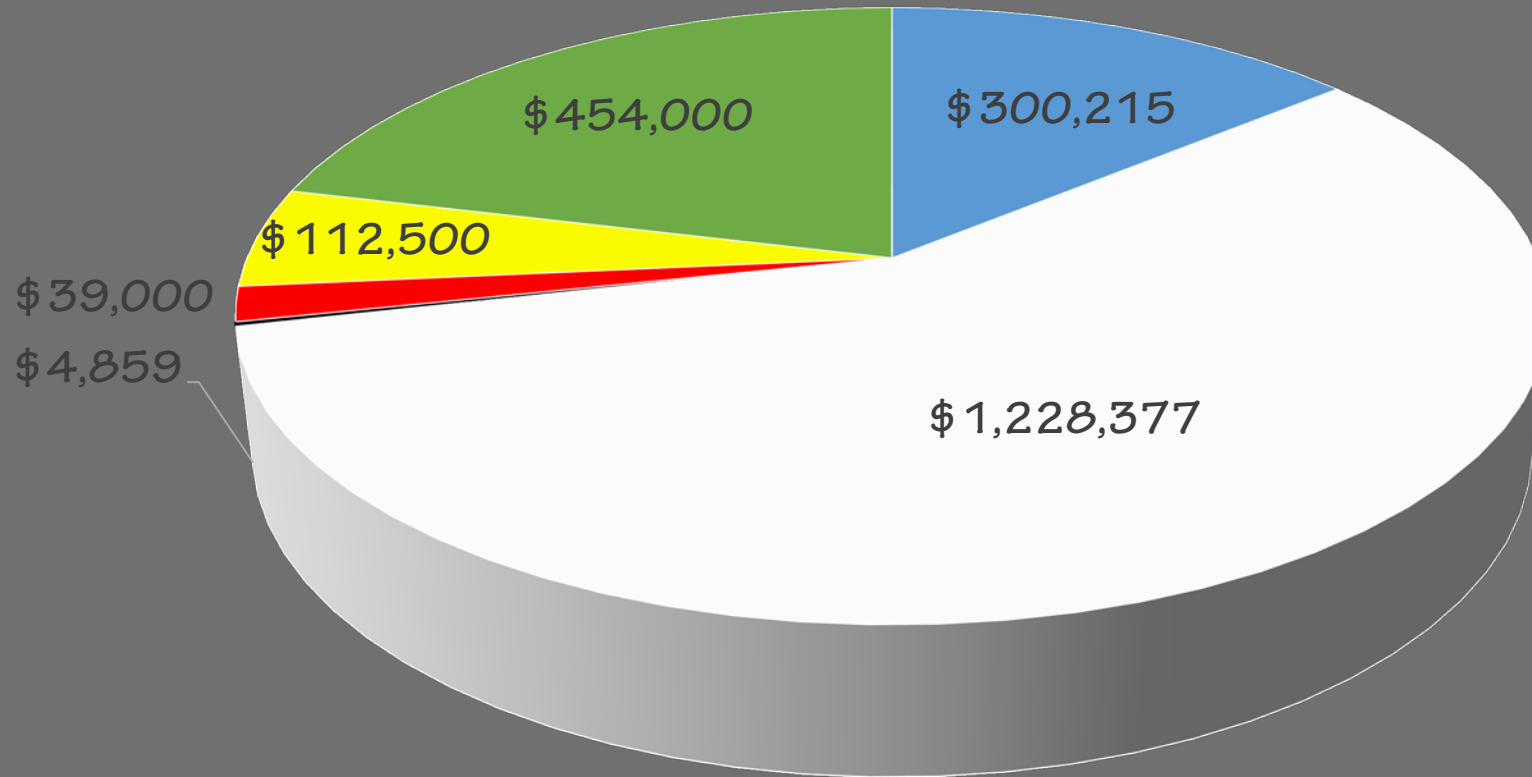


AFTER - BULL HOG



Force Multiplier

2017 Utah Partnership Projects



■ DNR/DWR

■ BLM

■ Private

■ SITLA

■ Sportsman Groups

■ Wild Horse Funds



Photo credit: BLM

Improved Management Actions are Needed to Protect our Public Rangelands

Our wild horses, native wildlife, rangeland ecosystem, taxpayer dollars, and western way of life are threatened by a growing overpopulation of horses and burros throughout 10 western states.

[Take Action](#)

National Wild Horse & Burro Summit Presentations

The National Wild Horse and Burro Summit was held in Salt Lake City, Utah on August 22 - 24, 2017, to consider the current situation and advance regarding the management of free-ranging horses and burros.

Coalition members attended and participated in the Summit to help raise awareness of the issue and advance policy changes that will improve the sustainability of our rangeland ecosystems.

[Watch the Presentations](#)



Wild horses and burros are to be managed according to the *Wild and Free-Roaming Horses & Burros Act of 1971*, which specifies where wild horses and burros can occupy public lands, and that they shall be managed in a manner that produces a thriving natural ecological balance. In addition, the Bureau of Land Management (BLM) and U.S. Forest Service (USFS) are **required by law** to manage and balance multiple uses of public lands, including wildlife, horses, and cattle grazing.

Horses and burros currently roaming the Western landscape are not native to North America. These animals are descended from domesticated breeds brought to North America from Europe. [Learn more.](#)

Facts of wild horse and burro management on our western public rangelands:

- Wild horses and burros are managed by federal law, and are only authorized to be on BLM and USFS lands.
 - BLM **estimates** their lands contain over 72,000 horses and burros as of March 1, 2017.
 - USFS provides a rough estimate of approximately 18,000 horses and burros on their lands.
 - Free-ranging horses and burros are also present on other federal, state, and tribal lands - however, these animals are not "wild and free-ranging" as defined in the **federal law**, and therefore are managed differently. The total number of free-ranging horses in the United States is likely in the hundreds of thousands.
- BLM lands where horses and burros should be managed can **only support 27,000 individuals** in balance with the ecosystem and other uses of the range. This means there are **over 48,000 excess horses and burros**, degrading our rangelands.
- Wild horse and burro populations have a **demonstrated ability to grow at 18-20% per year**. This means their populations **double every 4-5 years** without proper management actions.
- BLM currently uses a mixture of gathers and fertility control options to manage populations. However, these actions are not currently being used to the extent necessary to stop the growth of the horse and burro population, and our rangelands continue to be deteriorated.
- Horses and burros gathered by the BLM are held in holding facilities. A small number of them are adopted to private caretakers. The vast majority remain in these facilities, cared for by the BLM. These facilities currently house over 44,000 horses and burros, costing the American taxpayer nearly \$50 million per year.



Learn more about how the growing overpopulation of wild horses and burros impact on our public rangelands in the pages below.

www.wildhorserange.org

Summit Presentations

Policy & Management

Science & Management

Rangeland Health Impacts

Management Challenges & Opportunities

Legislative Parameters of the WFRHB Act

Statutory Parameters of the WFRHB Act

- ABOUT THE PROGRAM
- HERD MANAGEMENT
- MAINTAINING RANGE AND HERD HEALTH
- HERD MANAGEMENT AREAS
- SCIENCE AND RESEARCH
- GATHERS AND REMOVALS
- ARIZONA
- CALIFORNIA
- COLORADO
- IDAHO
- MONTANA-DAKOTAS
- NEVADA
- NEW MEXICO
- OREGON-WASHINGTON
- UTAH**
- 2018 BIBLE SPRINGS COMPLEX
- 2018 BIBLE SPRINGS COMPLEX AND SULPHUR MOUNTAIN WILD HORSE GATHER
- 2018 CEDAR MOUNTAIN HORSE GATHER
- 2018 MUDDY CREEK WILD HORSE GATHER
- 2018 RANGE CREEK GATHER
- WYOMING
- ADOPTION AND SALES
- PARTNERSHIPS
- GET INVOLVED
- CONTACTS



BLM UTAH GATHERS AND REMOVALS

BLM Utah manages 19 wild horse and burro herd management areas on nearly 2.5 million acres. The combined appropriate management level for all HMAs in the state is 1,956 animals.

Since 1971, the BLM has removed approximately 12,850 animals from public rangelands in Utah as part of its efforts to maintain healthy horses and burros on healthy public rangelands. Animals removed from public rangelands are offered to the public for adoption; unadopted animals are cared for on open pastures for the rest of their lives. Below, find on-going and recently completed gathers, organized by HMA.

BIBLE SPRINGS	+
BLAWN WASH	+
CANYON LANDS	+
CEDAR MOUNTAIN	+
CHLORIDE CANYON	+
CHOKE CHERRY	+
CONFUSION	+
CONGER	+
FOUR MILE	+
FRISCO	+
KINGTOP	+
MOUNT ELINOR	+
MUDDY CREEK	+
NORTH HILLS	+
ONAQUR MOUNTAIN	+
RANGE CREEK	+
SINBAD	+
SULPHUR	+
SWASEY	+
TILLY CREEK	+

QUICK LINKS

- [ABOUT THE PROGRAM](#)
- [UTAH HERD MANAGEMENT AREAS](#)
- [MAINTAINING RANGE AND HERD HEALTH](#)
- [SCIENCE AND RESEARCH](#)
- [ADOPTION AND SALES](#)
- [MYTHS AND FACTS](#)
- [COMMON QUESTIONS](#)
- [PARTNERSHIPS](#)
- [GET INVOLVED](#)
- [CONTACTS](#)

UTAH WHB NEWS

[BLM-Utah proceeding with Wild Horse Gather](#)

Strategy for 2018

Gathers


Bible Springs Complex

Bible Springs and Sulphur Mountain

Cedar Mountain

Muddy Creek

Range Creek



All of Utah's 29 Counties

are experiencing some level of drought



**It's likely that 100 %
of the fawn (baby deer)
in San Juan County
died this year.**

**Drought being a key contributor
- Utah Division of Wildlife Resources -**

A herd of cows is shown in a dry, yellowed field. The cows are of various colors, including brown, black, and white. The background shows rolling hills under a clear sky. The text is overlaid on the image.

Drought conditions have
some ranchers

SELLING OFF ANIMALS

to lessen the burden
of having to provide feed



Fires

During Drought Years

Burn hotter

Burn more acres

Occur more frequently



**On average
wildfires burn
125,000 acres
annually**

**Wildfires
have burned
over 490,000
acres this year**

