



U.S. Department of the Interior
Bureau of Land Management

Wild Horse and Burro Program Update

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Agenda

- Legal Authorities
- Program Objectives
- Estimated Population Size
- On-Range Updates
- Off-Range Updates
- Partnerships
- Budget
- FY25



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Legal Authorities

Wild Free-Roaming Horses and Burros Act, 1971

- Protect and manage wild horses and burros “as components of public lands”
- Maintain a “thriving natural ecological balance”

Federal Land Policy and Management Act, 1976

- Established BLM “multiple-use” mission
- Allowed for motorized vehicles for wild horse and burro management

THE WILD FREE-ROAMING HORSES AND BURROS ACT OF 1971 (PUBLIC LAW 92-195)

§1331. Congressional findings and declaration of policy

Congress finds and declares that wild free-roaming horses and burros are living symbols of the historic and pioneer spirit of the West; that they contribute to the diversity of life forms within the Nation and enrich the lives of the American people; and that these horses and burros are fast disappearing from the American scene. It is the policy of Congress that wild free-roaming horses and burros shall be protected from capture, branding, harassment, or death; and to accomplish this they are to be considered in the area where presently found, as an integral part of the natural system of the public lands.

§1332. Definitions

As used in this Act-

(a) "Secretary" means the Secretary of the Interior when used in connection with public lands administered by him through the Bureau of Land Management and the Secretary of Agriculture in connection with public lands administered by him through the Forest Service;

(b) "wild free-roaming horses and burros" means all unbranded and unclaimed horses and burros on public lands of the United States;

(c) "range" means the amount of land necessary to sustain an existing herd or herds of wild free-roaming horses and burros, which does not exceed their known territorial limits, and which is devoted principally but not necessarily exclusively to their welfare in keeping with the multiple-use management concept for the public lands;



Program Objectives

- To manage wild horses and burros as an integral part of the natural system of public lands in balance with BLM's multiple use mission.
- **Goal: healthy herds on healthy public lands**



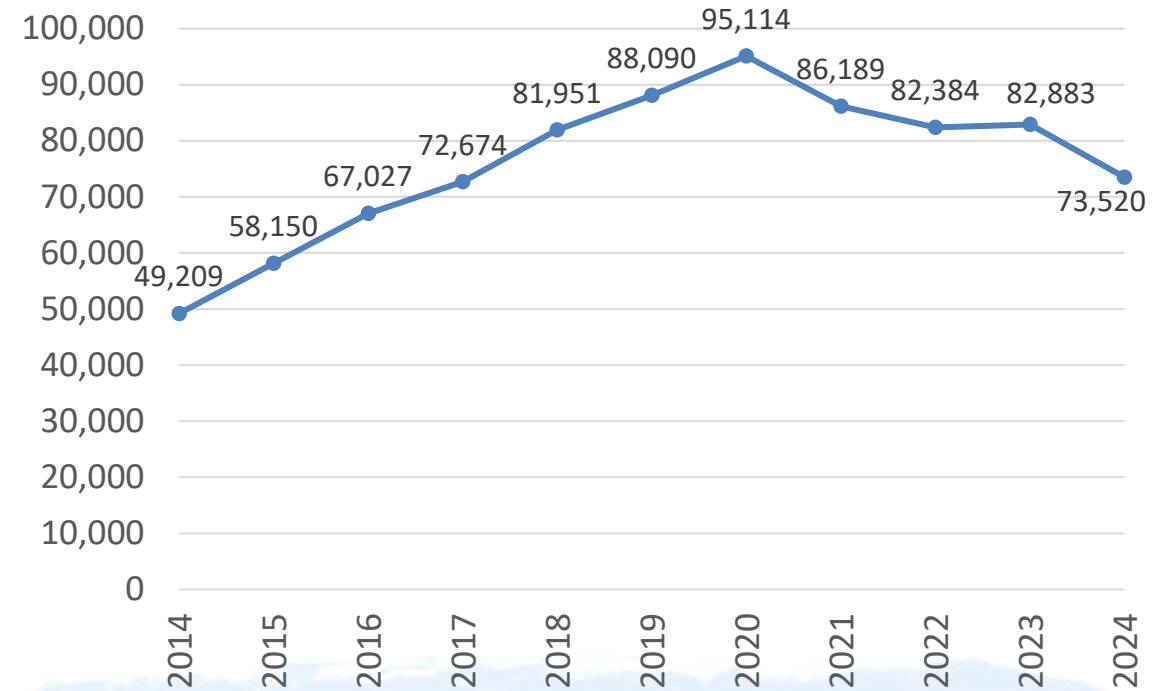


Estimated population size

Estimated Wild Horse and Burro Populations on BLM-managed Public Lands as of March 1, 2024

State	Horses	Burros	Total	Max. AML
Arizona	229	5,898	6,127	1,676
California	3,487	3,696	7,183	2,200
Colorado	1,322	0	1,322	827
Idaho	489	0	489	617
Montana	198	0	198	120
Nevada	33,338	4,685	38,023	12,811
New Mexico	455	0	455	83
Oregon	5,092	62	5,154	2,700
Utah	4,078	227	4,305	1,956
Wyoming	10,264	0	10,264	5,566*
Total	58,952	14,568	73,520	25,556

Estimated Wild Horse and Burro Populations on BLM-managed Public Lands, 2013-2023

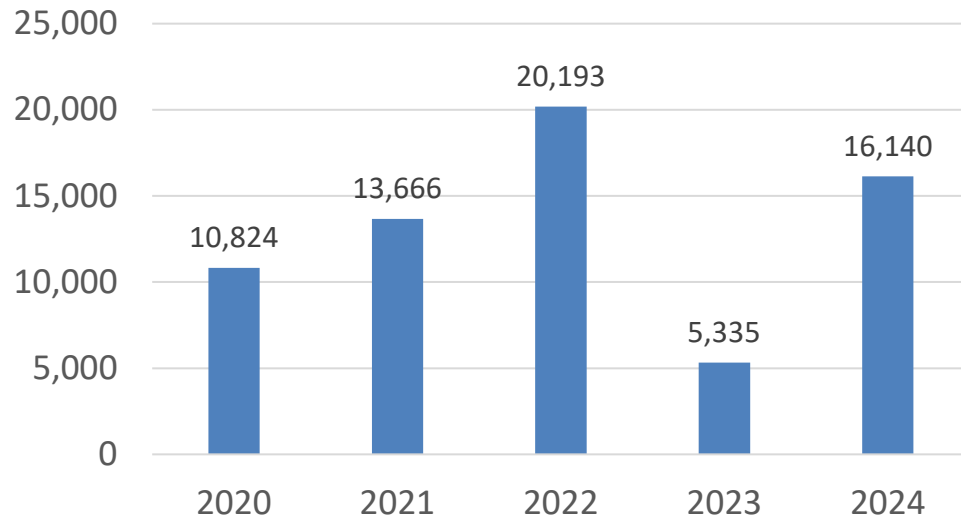


*Wyoming AML adjusted per Rock Springs and Rawlins Wild Horse Resource Management Plan Amendment Record of Decision



On-Range Program Update

Annual Wild Horse and Burro Removals



FY24 Accomplishments

Activity	Completed
Gathered	17,200
Removed	16,140
Treatments via darting	616
Treatments via gather	422
Surveys	104 (HMAs, HAs and WHBTs)





Off-Range Program Update

Placement Events and Animals Offered

Events (Facility, Satellite, Online, Storefront)	Animals Offered
175	29,764

Key Metrics

Adoptions	Sales	Transfers	Compliance	Titled
5,166	1,509	20	6,236	4,931

AIP vs Non-AIP Adoptions

AIP	Non-AIP/Trained
3,871	1,294

Off-Range Facilities

Corrals	Pastures	Public Pastures	Total
23,202	43,695	1,200	68,097





Off-Range Program Update

- Solicitations for off-range pastures and corrals released December 2024
 - Pasture facilities must hold 200-10,000 animals and be located in Colorado, Iowa, Idaho, Kansas, Montana, Nebraska, Nevada, North Dakota, Oklahoma, Oregon, South Dakota, Utah, Washington, or Wyoming
 - Corral facilities can be located in Nevada, Wyoming, Kansas or Colorado.
- Additional solicitation for off-range corrals anticipated 2025.





Online Corral

- Online Corral held seven adoption/sale events in FY24
- 3,860 animals offered for adoption, of which **1,790 were placed into private care.**
- Pick-up locations were offered for all 22 satellite events in Eastern States as well as facilities in ID, CA, CO, NV, OR, UT and WY
- Average bid \$301.22





Partnerships

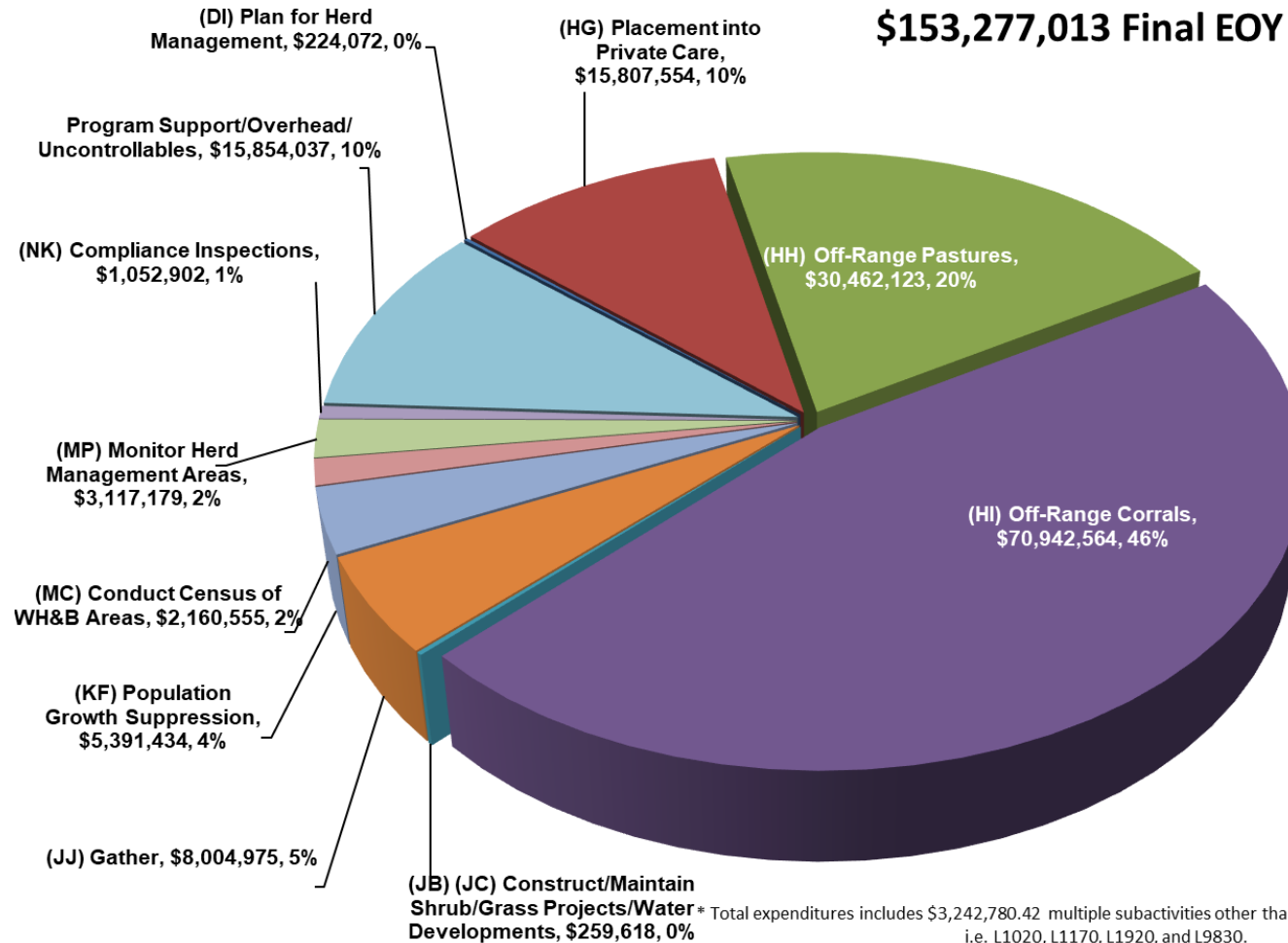
- BLM awarded five cooperative agreements to support off-range efforts, including placement into private care and public education/awareness.
 - ❖ Forever Branded
 - ❖ Teens and Oregon Mustangs
 - ❖ Meeker Mustang Makeover
 - ❖ Sacramento Sheriff's Office Wild Horse Program
 - ❖ Mustang Yearlings Washington Youth
- Together, these new agreements have potential to place 11,000 animals into private care over 5 years.
- The BLM continues to work with a variety of organizations through agreements signed in previous years.





FY 2024 WHB Program Obligations

\$153,277,013 Final EOY



* Total expenditures includes \$3,242,780.42 multiple subactivities other than just L1060 (WHB F i.e. L1020, L1170, L1920, and L9830).



Goals for Fiscal Year 2025

- The BLM's goal is to continue progress towards reducing overpopulation and achieving healthy wild horse and burro herds on healthy public rangelands, while increasing the number of animals placed into private care.
- Operations will depend on Congressional appropriations and direction.
- Currently planning approx.:
 - 10,000 removals
 - 1,200 animals treated with fertility control
 - 10,000 animals placed into private care



Questions?



Credit: Frank Sorger