



ARIZONA WILDLIFE FEDERATION
PO Box 51510
Mesa, AZ 85208

August, 31, 2010

Mr. Bob Abbey
Director, Bureau of Land Management
1849 C Street NW, Rm. 5665
Washington, D.C., 20240

Dear Mr. Abbey:

On behalf of the Arizona Wildlife Federation, Arizona's oldest state conservation organization and full affiliate of the National Wildlife Federation, I would like to voice our disappointment with the state of wild horse and burro management throughout the West. We recognize the difficult challenges faced by agency managers and appreciate the efforts that have been made but in review it's apparent that agency management has not provided for the protection of natural and cultural resources. It's also clear that current management has resulted in a system that is expensive and demonstrates little fiscal responsibility and it's destined to get worse. The original act while far from perfect provided for a management scenario that has never been successfully implemented and like so many other laws and regulations the ensuing results were inevitable.

It is apparent that the outspoken, well funded and unfortunately uninformed minority that continues to push for increased protection and expansion of the wild horse and burro populations will not be pacified with scientifically based management that takes into account the capacity of the land. We oppose any further efforts to placate these groups and request that science and sound wildlife management principles prevail. We have drafted the following resolution at our Annual meeting held on June 12th, 2010, mirroring and supporting similar resolutions adopted by the National Wildlife Federation, one of America's largest and oldest conservation organizations:

"RELATIVE TO MANAGEMENT OF FERAL HORSES AND BURROS:

The Arizona Wildlife Federation, with support from the National Wildlife Federation urges Congress to appropriate adequate funds for the federal agencies with jurisdictional responsibilities in Arizona to implement management plans that address the multitude of habitat degradation impacts associated with the presence of feral horses and burros in Arizona, particularly in habitats occupied by desert bighorn sheep and mule deer, and that these plans shall include: (a) a complete survey of feral horse and burro populations on public lands in Arizona; (b) an immediate effort to reduce feral horse and burro populations to the low range of appropriate management levels; (c) managing all herds of captive un-adoptable feral horses and burros to be non-reproducing; and (d) the use of multiple population control methods endorsed by professional wildlife managers on feral horse and burro herds to reduce populations to manageable levels and e) that the appropriate federal agencies be required to document and file a bi-annual report to Congress on the impacts and damage on public lands and wildlife caused by feral horses and burros."

In closing, I recommend that you take immediate steps to work with the Arizona Game and Fish Department within Arizona and other appropriate wildlife agencies throughout the West, to remedy this situation that threatens fish and wildlife populations throughout the west.

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Established 1923 • As The Arizona Game Protective Association • State Affiliate of the National Wildlife Federation, Washington, D.C.

Respectfully yours,

Tom Mackin, President
Arizona Wildlife Federation