

Wild Horse and Burro Program

National Association of Counties
Western Interstate Region Conference

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





Wild Horse and Burro Program

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 management

Public Rangelands Improvement Act, 1978

- Maintain appropriate management level
- Institute adoption program
- Destroy animals with no adoption demand

Other pertinent legislation

- National Environmental Policy Act, 1970
- Appropriations Act, 2005 (Burns Amendment)



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Wild Horse and Burro Program

Program goals:

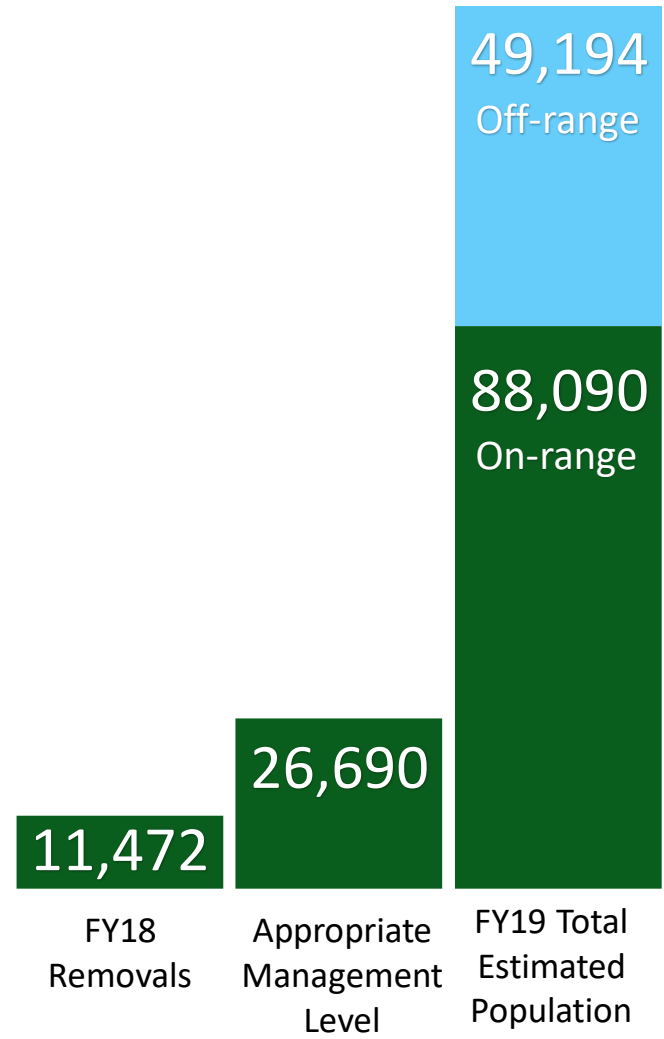
- Healthy wild horses and burros on healthy public rangelands
- Protect health and welfare of animals and the public lands
- Care for and place excess animals into good homes





Wild Horse and Burro Program

- **Overpopulation at record level** since 1971
- **BLM nearly tripled removals in FY18** over previous years and plans for 9,000 in FY19, though more needs to be done
- **On-range pop exceeds AML** by >60,000 animals
- **Off-range pop continues to cost taxpayers \$50 million annually** – 2/3 of budget for WHB Program



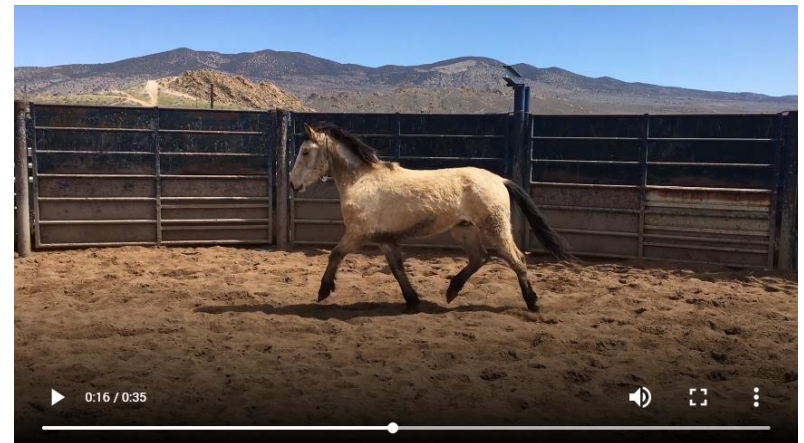
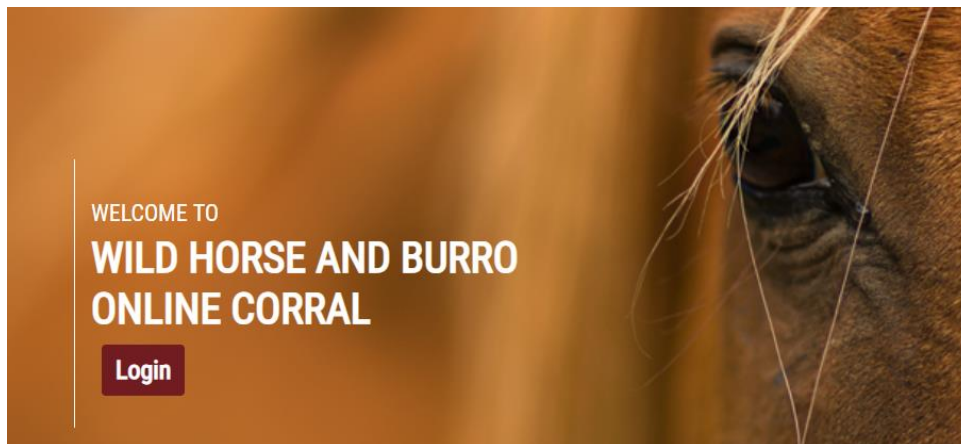
On-range estimates as of March 1, 2019

Off-range inventory as of April, 2019



Wild Horse and Burro Program

- **New Online Corral** website offers a better way to adopt or purchase online with video capabilities
- >540 animals adopted through the **Adoption Incentive Program**, which offers up to \$1,000 to adopt an untrained animal
- **BLM-supported research** is improving effectiveness of fertility control vaccines, such as Gonacon
- BLM will soon request information to help develop **protocols for humane sterilization**, as directed by Congress





Wild Horse and Burro Program

- BLM is reviewing proposals for **additional pasture space for cost-effective long-term care** of unadopted animals
- BLM will release a new solicitation in May 2019 for **additional corral space** to support gather intake and adoptions
- **BLM is working closely with partners and stakeholders**, including reviewing a proposed strategy developed and supported by an unprecedented coalition of wild horse, wildlife and livestock advocates
- BLM is developing further analysis at the request of Congress

