

VERIFIABLE FACTS CONCERNING AMERICA'S WILD HORSES AND BURROS

- * In the mid 1800's, two to three million wild horses roamed the western states.
- * By 1950, wild horses and burros were nearly eradicated from the West.
- * In 1971, Wild Horse Annie and ISPMB were instrumental in getting Public Law 92-195 (The Wild Free-Roaming Horses and Burros Act) passed that protected wild horses from capture, branding, harassment, or death. "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 wild free-roaming horses and burros are fast disappearing from the American scene."
- * In 1974, the first census was done and there were 60,000 wild horses and burros on public lands.
- * Today, there are less than 35,000 wild horses and burros.
- * By 2006, there will be only 23,000 wild horses and burros left.
- * Viable populations of wild horses and burros must have a minimum of 150 animals in each Herd Area (University of Kentucky). This absolute minimum is only under ideal climatic conditions. According to these figures - the absolute minimum number is 30,150 wild horses and burros - that is if there is no drought or harsh winters, fires or other acts of God.
- * BLM's regulation - CFR 4710.5 "closure to livestock" is to be implemented to protect wild horses and burros during negative climatic conditions by removing livestock. Emergency gathers for the past fourteen years would not have taken place if BLM had implemented this CFR.
- * Most biologists believe that populations should be a minimum of 500 animals to maintain viability.
- * By 2006, 70% of the Herd Areas will have less than 100 animals in each one.
- * Now, wild horses have far more genetic variability compared to any particular breed of horse in our country. (University of Kentucky)
- * Drastic reductions in numbers as proposed by the Bureau of Land Management (BLM) will lead to the loss of this great variability.
- * In 1971, there were 303 Herd Areas and now only 201 Herd Management areas remain.

- * The Bureau of Land Management manages 261,950,378 acres.
- * Wild horses and burros reside on only 34,549,570 acres down from 47,495,879 acres in 1984.
- * Public Law 92-195 requires BLM to manage “principally” for wild horses and burros in the areas where found, however - livestock represent the major users in most of the Herd Areas.