

Wild Horse & Burro Report ^{1/6/81}



U.S. Department of the Interior

Bureau of Land Management

January 6, 1981

Program Outlook for Fiscal Year 1981
(October 1, 1980 - September 30, 1981)

Approximately \$6,660,000 has been allocated to BLM for wild horse and burro program activities in Fiscal Year 1981. Final adjustments for each State's wild horse and burro program have not been completed; however, Bureauwide goals for Fiscal Year 1981 have been established:

- About 20 million acres of wild horse and burro habitat will be inventoried. The inventories will describe the forage and habitat conditions by herd area, identify migratory habits, and provide an estimate of the population by herd area. Eight Herd Management Area Plans will be developed. Particular emphasis will be placed on implementing the recently approved California Desert Conservation Area Plan.
- Approximately 8,500 excess wild horses and 2,000 excess wild burros will be removed from the public lands. Half of the horses will be removed from Nevada's public lands and two-thirds of the burros will be removed from the California Desert Area.
- A contract will be negotiated to open an additional adoption center next summer in the midwest. The center will be under the jurisdiction of BLM's Wyoming State Office.
- Compliance checks of about 1,000 adopters will be made. The adopters will be visited by BLM personnel, who will inspect animals previously assigned under the adoption program.
- By the end of Fiscal Year 1981, adopters of more than 7,500 horses and burros will become eligible to apply for titles of ownership. Title applications are processed by BLM field offices and titles will be issued to qualified adopters.
- Contracts for two additional wild horse and burro research projects will be issued. The research projects will be selected from 18 studies recommended by the National Academy of Sciences. Contracts for four other studies were issued during FY 1980.

Field Office Program Accomplishments During
October - November 1980.*

Management

In November, formal dedication ceremonies were held to establish the Little Book Cliff Wild Horse Range in memory of Velma (Wild Horse Annie) Johnston. Between 80 and 100 wild horses will be managed by BLM on the range. About 180 people attended the dedication ceremonies.

Removal of Excess Animals

Seven States reported removals in October and November. Arizona and California captured nearly 550 burros. Nearly 1,500 wild horses were captured in Arizona, California, Idaho, Montana, New Mexico, Oregon, and Wyoming. The removals were conducted primarily to implement planning decisions. Wyoming gatherings (about 800 horses) were designed to remove wild horses from private lands and prevent range deterioration on public lands. Forty old, sick, and lame animals were destroyed and an additional 46 animals died after capture and prior to adoption.

Adoptions

During October and November, more than 1,000 horses and 250 burros were placed under adoption. Two unadoptable horses were humanely destroyed in Oregon.

Compliance/Enforcement

More than 300 horses and burros were inspected to ensure that adopters were providing humane care and proper treatment. About 60 horses and 4 burros were repossessed from adopters due to improper treatment. Six new investigations were started by four offices. The cases, involving 53 adopted horses, range from neglect and sale to use as bucking stock.

Public Information and Involvement

BLM personnel in California and Idaho gave presentations on their wild horse and burro programs to more than 320 people, while a scheduled hearing on an Idaho gathering drew no attendance.

Title Transfers

Titles to 634 adopted horses and 100 burros were issued to adopters during October and November.

*The above statistical summaries do not include information from the Nevada State Office.

Washington Office Activities

Two personnel changes occurred in the Division of Wild Horses and Burros: Bob Springer transferred to the Wyoming State Office, where he will coordinate the NAS-designed research studies and Wyoming's horse and burro program; and Barbara Maxfield joined the Division staff as a writer-editor.

Two major program documents were recently released: the Third Report to Congress on the administration of the wild horse and burro program (a joint report by BLM and the Forest Service; copies are available from all BLM Offices); and a guidance statement for BLM Offices involved in the wild horse and burro program (copies are available upon request - Instruction Memorandum No. 81-145).

Table I. Adoption Demand by Age and Sex of Animals Requested as of 12/31/80.

BLM currently has 12,337 applications requesting 32,238 animals. Applicants are contacted after 12 months to verify they are still interested; the names of those no longer interested are removed from our files.

Table IA. Animals Requested, Age less Than 5 Years

<u>BLM State Office</u>	Male Horses	Female Horses	Male Burros	Female Burros
Alaska	0	0	0	0
Arizona	59	125	24	68
California (incl. Hawaii)	544	1,118	117	293
Colorado	241	425	37	84
Eastern States	1,062	3,037	212	433
Idaho	473	706	32	55
Montana (incl. N & S Dakota)	168	372	19	49
Nevada	154	243	32	54
New Mexico (incl. OK & TX)	512	1,122	93	201
Oregon (incl. WA)	600	1,096	121	298
Utah	172	260	21	34
Wyoming (incl. KS & NE)	451	631	26	72

Table IB.

Animals Requested, Age 5 to 10 Years

<u>BLM State Office</u>	Male Horses	Female Horses	Male Burros	Female Burros
Alaska	0	4	0	0
Arizona	85	147	25	44
California (incl. Hawaii)	405	740	64	141
Colorado	117	398	37	87
Eastern States	800	2,415	143	298
Idaho	164	452	18	39
Montana (incl. N & S Dakota)	92	408	20	54
Nevada	173	193	25	30
New Mexico (incl. OK & TX)	476	1,427	68	150
Oregon (incl. WA)	441	1,014	103	189
Utah	156	298	11	6
Wyoming (incl. KS & NE)	320	476	22	52

Table IC.

Animals Requested, Age Greater Than 10

<u>BLM State Office</u>	Male Horses	Female Horses	Male Burros	Female Burros
Alaska	0	0	1	1
Arizona	11	25	9	17
California (incl. Hawaii)	77	254	26	49
Colorado	45	162	12	25
Eastern States	127	510	53	85
Idaho	39	161	11	9
Montana (incl. N & S Dakota)	25	118	1	6
Nevada	23	76	5	8
New Mexico (incl. OK & TX)	208	246	24	39
Oregon (incl. WA)	115	310	50	83
Utah	103	66	5	8
Wyoming (incl. KS & NE)	63	130	8	16

Table II. Distribution of Adopted Animals by
BLM State Office of Jurisdiction
(as of December 31, 1980)

<u>BLM State Office</u>	<u>Number of Animals</u>
Alaska	10
Arizona	483
California (incl. Hawaii)	4,100
Colorado	965
Eastern States	4,152
Idaho	1,527
Montana (incl. N & S Dakota)	787
Nevada	942
New Mexico (incl. OK & TX)	4,196
Oregon (incl. WA)	4,115
Utah	1,020
Wyoming (incl. KS & NE)	1,578
<hr/> <u>TOTAL ANIMALS ADOPTED</u>	<hr/> <u>23,875</u>