

A dark-colored wild horse, possibly a stallion, stands in a field of dry, scrubby vegetation. The horse is facing slightly to the left but looking towards the camera. Its tail is long and dark, with some lighter-colored hair at the tip. The background is a clear, deep blue sky. The overall tone of the image is somewhat muted, with a dark overlay that makes the white text stand out.

Beyond Roundups: A Blueprint for Wild Horse Reform

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Slide 2: The Roundup Cycle



- **Removal has become the default management strategy**
- **Thousands of wild horses and burros are removed from the range each year**
- **Most removals do little to address continued population growth**
- **More removals mean more animals in an already costly off-range holding system**
- **The result: a cycle of roundup, removal, holding – and more roundups**
- **There is a better way**

Why the Cycle Continues



- **Management remains focused on removal rather than prevention**
- **Fertility control has never been implemented at the scale needed**
- **Appropriate Management Levels (AMLs) drive repeated removals**
- **Livestock grazing and other competing uses shape management decisions**
- **Federal funding has historically supported roundups and holding more readily than sustained on-range management**
- **The system responds to population growth after it occurs instead of preventing it**

Reform Begins with the Land

- **Reevaluate outdated and scientifically questionable Appropriate Management Levels (AMLs)**
- **Ensure herd sizes support long-term genetic viability**
- **Address livestock grazing impacts and inequitable forage allocation**
- **Assess cumulative impacts of livestock, development, and other competing land uses**
- **Protect and restore habitat, water resources, and ecological health**
- **Recognize wild horses and burros as legitimate, protected components of our public lands**
- **Demand science-based, transparent, and accountable management decisions**





Manage Wild Horses and Burros Where They Live

- **Make humane, reversible fertility control a cornerstone of on-range management**
- **Prioritize proven PZP immunocontraception over permanent sterilization**
- **Replace episodic interventions with sustained, herd-specific management programs**
- **Invest in trained field personnel, monitoring, and fertility control infrastructure**
- **Expand partnerships with nonprofits, universities, states, and local communities**
- **Use accurate population data to evaluate effectiveness and adapt management strategies**
- **Keep wild horses and burros wild, on the range, and in genetically viable, reproducing herds**



Make Roundups the Exception, Not the Rule

- **End the reliance on helicopter roundups as the default management strategy**
- **Limit removals to genuine emergencies and clearly demonstrated management needs**
- **Prioritize humane alternatives, including bait and water trapping when removal is necessary**
- **Strengthen and codify Comprehensive Animal Welfare Program (CAWP) standards**
- **Ensure meaningful public observation, transparency, and independent oversight**
- **Require accountability for injuries, deaths, and animal welfare violations**
- **Advance the Wild Horse and Burro Protection Act to phase out aircraft-assisted roundups**



When the Roundup Ends, the Risks Don't

- **Removal marks the beginning of a new set of animal welfare challenges**
- **Tens of thousands of wild horses and burros remain in federal off-range holding**
- **Long-term confinement raises serious welfare and financial concerns**
- **Adoption and sales programs require stronger safeguards and oversight**
- **Sale Authority creates risks of horses and burros entering the slaughter pipeline**
- **Transportation, veterinary care, and special-needs animals demand greater attention**
- **Federal responsibility must extend beyond the roundup and transfer of ownership**

The Rescue Community: Essential to Reform, but Stretched to Capacity

- **You are the safety net for horses and burros failed by the current system**
- **Federal management decisions have real consequences for your organizations**
- **Demand for rescue, rehabilitation, sanctuary, and placement exceeds available capacity**
- **Wild horses and burros require specialized expertise, facilities, and long-term commitments**
- **The federal government cannot continue shifting the burden of its management failures onto nonprofits**
- **Expanding humane capacity requires sustainable funding, infrastructure, and meaningful partnerships**
- **Rescue and sanctuary professionals must have a seat at the table in shaping federal reform**





Building a National Humane Safety Net

- Establish meaningful public-private partnerships among federal agencies, rescues, sanctuaries, and equine welfare organizations
- Create federal funding and grant opportunities to expand qualified rescue and sanctuary capacity
- Invest in facilities, land, veterinary services, transportation, and professional staffing
- Expand training, rehabilitation, foster, and adoption programs to improve successful placements
- Develop coordinated regional networks to assist with emergency placements and difficult-to-place animals
- Establish rigorous welfare standards, accountability, and long-term placement safeguards
- Redirect resources from perpetual holding toward humane, sustainable outcomes



Close the Slaughter Pipeline

- **End the slaughter of American equines for human consumption, at home or abroad**
- **Pass the SAFE Act to permanently prohibit slaughter and export for slaughter**
- **Strengthen safeguards against wild horses and burros entering the slaughter pipeline through BLM's Sale Authority**
- **Demand transparency, traceability, and accountability in federal adoption and sales programs**
- **Prohibit transport of equines to slaughter and strengthen humane transportation protections**
- **Support the Ejiao Act to address the international trade threatening donkeys and burros**
- **Pair slaughter prevention with expanded rescue, sanctuary, and responsible placement capacity**



The Blueprint: Six Pillars of Wild Horse Reform

- **Reform Land Management:** Reevaluate AMLs, address livestock impacts, ensure genetic viability, and protect habitat
- **Prioritize On-Range Management:** Expand humane, reversible fertility control and sustained public-private partnerships
- **End Routine Roundups:** Make removals the exception, strengthen animal welfare standards, and ensure transparency
- **Protect Animals After Removal:** Improve holding conditions, adoption safeguards, transportation, and federal accountability
- **Build Humane Capacity:** Invest in rescue, sanctuary, training, adoption, and a coordinated national safety net
- **End the Slaughter Pipeline:** Pass the SAFE Act, strengthen Sale Authority safeguards, and protect all American equines



What Success Looks Like: A New Era for Wild Horses and Burros

- **Healthy, genetically viable wild herds thriving on healthy public lands**
- **Humane, science-based on-range management replacing the roundup cycle**
- **Dramatically fewer removals and declining federal holding populations**
- **Greater transparency, accountability, and public confidence in federal management**
- **A strong, sustainable national network of rescues, sanctuaries, trainers, and adopters**
- **An end to the slaughter of American horses, burros, and other equines**
- **Government agencies, advocates, and the equine welfare community working together to achieve lasting reform**

QUESTIONS?

