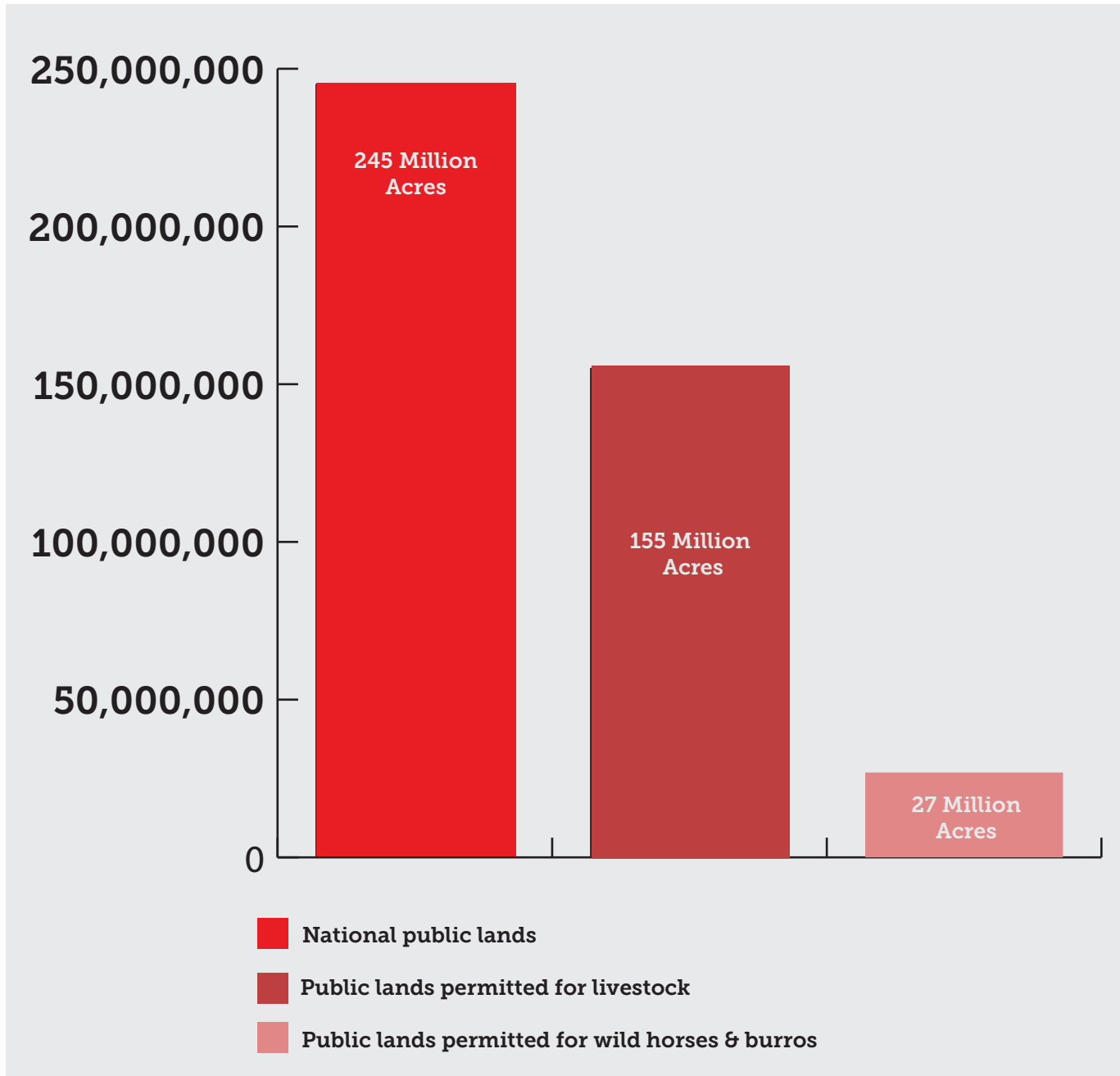


A Problem That Can be Resolved

Only 17% of the Bureau of Land Management (BLM) land grazed by livestock is shared with wild horses. This is a problem the American public cares deeply about, and one that can be solved with leadership necessary to implement fiscally sound and humane management policies.



Where the Public Stands on Wild Horses and Burros

Congress unanimously passed the Wild Free Roaming Horses and Burros Act in response to overwhelming public support. In 1971, the Congress received more mail on this issue than any other issue at the time except for the Vietnam War.

POLL: AMERICANS WANT WILD HORSES PROTECTED

72% of Americans want wild horses protected as "living symbols of the historic and pioneer spirit of the West". *

80% of Americans oppose horse slaughter.**

90% of American women oppose horse slaughter.**

83% of Westerners oppose horse slaughter.**

*Pubic Policy poll of 1,247 registered voters, March 27, 2013

** Lake Research Partners national poll of registered voters, January 2012.



AmericanWildHorseCampaign.org

Federal Mismanagement of the Wild Horse and Burro Program

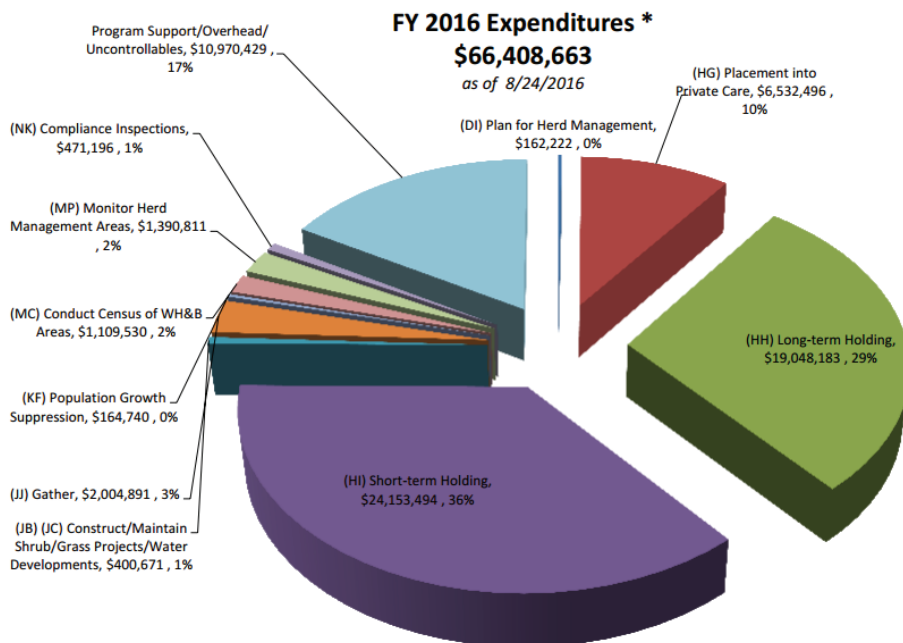
The costs of the BLM Wild Horse and Burro program have doubled since 2009, from \$40 million to nearly \$80 million in Fiscal Year 2016. Everyone from the Government Accountability Office to the Interior Department Inspector General, the National Academy of Sciences and the BLM itself agrees that the program is unsustainable, and yet it continues on a collision course with fiscal disaster. The BLM

- Lacks a "strategic plan to manage wild horse and burro populations" (Office of Inspector General [OIG], 2016)
- Wastes millions by storing horses in the most expensive short-term holding instead of moving them into available pasture space in less expensive long-term holding facilities. (OIG, 2016)
- Is overpaying on its prison training contracts. (OIG, 2016, 2013)
- Illegally sold 1700 wild horses to a known kill buyer, who in turn sold them for slaughter in Mexico. (OIG, 2015)

- Is grossly inflating holding costs for horses. The cost estimate of \$50,000 per unadopted horse is grossly inflated and based on a horse spending 27 years in the most expensive short-term holding – a scenario that just doesn't occur for any horse.

The BLM continues "expensive and unproductive status quo." The agency

- Removed approximately 56,000 wild horses from the range despite the NAS finding that removals increase population growth rates for horses left on the range.
- Reduced the use of fertility control, despite promising in 2009 to increase its use as a centerpiece of the agency's reform strategy. Just 479 mares were vaccinated last year – far lower than the 2,000 per year the agency promised in 2009.
- Spends less than 1% of its budget on fertility control, while 68% is spent to roundup and stockpile wild horses in holding facilities.



* Total expenditures includes L1110 (Sage Grouse), L5210, L5220, L1920, and L9830, as well as L1060 (WHB Program), funding expended in FY2016.

Wild Horses: What Science & the Law Say

“Appropriate” Management Levels - the basis of BLM’s overpopulation claims.

National Academy of Sciences (2013)

- “The committee could not identify a science-based rationale used by the BLM to allocate forage and habitat resources to various uses...”
- “How Appropriate Management Levels (AMLs) are established, monitored, and adjusted is not transparent to stakeholders, supported by scientific information, or amenable to adaptation with new information and environmental and social change.”

Tenth Circuit Court of Appeals (2016)

- “We reject the State [of Wyoming’s] arguments... the [Wild Horse] Act does not define the phrase “appropriate management level” and thus does not equate it with any requirement to remove excess animals from a particular HMA... the BLM is under no statutory duty to remove animals from the seven HMAs at issue.”

BLM Management Practices

National Academy of Sciences (2013)

- “Management practices are facilitating high rates of population growth... Removals are likely to keep the population at a size that maximizes population growth rate, which in turn maximizes the number of animals that must be removed through holding facilities.”
- The most promising fertility-control methods for free-ranging horses or burros are porcine zona pellucida (PZP) vaccines and GonaCon™ vaccine for females and chemical vasectomy for males... Considering all the current options, these three methods, either alone or in combination, offer the most acceptable alternative to removing animals for managing population numbers.”

(Note: Of the three recommended methods, only PZP is available now. The NAS concluded that the other methods required more research before implementation.)

Tenth Circuit Court of Appeals:

- “While action is mandatory if necessary to achieve a “thriving natural ecological balance on public lands, the BLM is left with a great deal of discretion in deciding how to achieve that Congressional objective.”

PZP – A Safe, Humane, and Effective Way to Manage Wild Horse Populations

What is PZP?

Porcine Zona Pellucida, or PZP, is a fertility-control vaccine given to the mares on the range through an injection or a simple dart. The vaccine prevents fertilization and pregnancy via an immune response that does not affect the animals' hormonal system.

As a result, the vaccine preserves the natural behaviors that distinguish wild horses from their domestic counterparts. It is scientifically proven with over three decades of use and is recommended by the National Academy of Sciences for use in BLM herds as an alternative to roundups and removals.

Success in the Field

PZP works every place it is used properly, including in numerous BLM wild horse herds.

- Spring Creek Basin, Colorado: PZP in use since 2012. The wild horse population has been stabilized at 62, and no horses have been removed since 2011. Bait trapping is prioritized over helicopter roundups for future removals, if any are necessary.
- McCullough Peaks, Wyoming: PZP in use since 2012. Zero population growth achieved in 2015. No removals since 2013. Bait trapping is prioritized over helicopter roundups for future removals, if any are necessary.
- Challis, Idaho: Use of PZP has slowed population growth rates, meaning a longer time between roundups (5 years instead of 3 years) and the need to remove 70% fewer horses from the range. Bait trapping will be used instead of helicopters to remove just 50 horses from the range in 2017.

- Little Book Cliffs, Colorado: PZP use has stabilized population growth rates in this herd. The last helicopter roundup was in 2009. In 2013, bait trapping was used to remove just 14 horses, who were all placed locally in adoptive homes.
- Pryor Mountains, Montana: According to the BLM, "The Billings Field Office is excited to be on the cusp of nearly eliminating the need for wild horse removals due to the use of PZP." (Jim Sparks, Billings Field Manager, 2013)

Cost Effective Alternative to Expensive Roundups/Removals

- PZP is "a more affordable option than continuing to remove horses to long-term holding facilities." (National Academy of Sciences, 2013)
- PZP use with select removals could save about \$8 million over 12 years in one Herd Management Area alone. (de Seve and Griffin, Journal of Zoo and Wildlife Medicine, 2013)
- Cost per horse/year in short-term holding: \$1,829; Cost for long-term holding: \$664; Cost of yearly PZP vaccination: \$30.

For more information about the role of PZP in wild horse management, please visit the American Wild Horse Campaign website at americanwildhorsecampaign.org

