



“Voice of the Western Slope since 1953”

A coalition of counties, communities, businesses & individuals

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HORSES & BURROS, WILD, MANAGEMENT OF

WHEREAS the United States’ resident population of wild horses on public lands continues to grow beyond the established target objective (Despite an approved population objective of 27,200 wild horses nationwide, there are currently 34,000 wild horses on the range and an ADDITIONAL 34,000 horses being maintained in federally-managed holding pens.), and

WHEREAS the excess population of wild horses and burros continues to require the federal government to spend beyond their budgeted ability to manage and maintain these animals (The General Accounting Office reports that the FY08 budget was \$36.2 mil, but the federal government spent \$46.5 mil on the wild horse and burro program), and

WHEREAS overpopulation of wild horses and burros contributes to degradation of our public rangelands and poses a herd health risk to the animals;

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that CLUB 20 believes that:

- 1) The federal government should manage wild horse and burro populations to adhere to established population objectives which can be sustained within the carrying capacity of the public lands; this management should include the aggressive use of a sterilization program to curb excessive population growth.
- 2) The federal government should not expend additional resources to maintain excess wild horse and burro populations off of the public rangeland. Every effort should be made to adopt out these excess animals, but if they are not adopted, then the excess animals should be humanely euthanized.
- 3) Product from euthanized excess animals should be marketed domestically or internationally to offset the costs of maintaining healthy wild horse and burro populations on the public lands, and previously-closed horse processing facilities should be reopened to accommodate these processing needs.

Adopted April 3, 2009