



## What We Believe and Why

- We believe that the *intent* of the Wild and Free-Roaming Horses and Burros Act of 1971 ('1971 Act') remains valid, even though it is not properly observed [1]
- We believe that the modern horse (*E. Caballus*) evolved in North America about 1.7-million years ago and is a native species in North America [2]
- We believe that splinter populations of wild horses survived the Ice Age in North America, even though much of the population migrated over the Aleutian land bridge into Asia [3]
- We believe that horses brought to the North American continent by Spanish explorers were, technically speaking, a reintroduction of a native species [4]
- We believe that American wild horses have co-evolved natural predators in North America essential to their long-term survival via the evolutionary process of Natural Selection, which culls the weak, sick, diseased and elderly horses, thereby preserving genetic vigor and managing populations [5]
- We believe that the continued management of wild horses in herd areas devoid of the evolved predators of wild horses, and commingled with livestock, is a manifestly flawed management paradigm that creates unnecessary issues [6]
- We believe that the use of chemical treatments (PZP & GonaCon) and physical mutilation (castration) of wild horses as means to manage populations of wild horses disintermediates Natural Selection and leads to genetic erosion [7]
- We believe that American wild horses are Keystone Herbivores in North American ecosystems that have co-evolved mutualisms with other native flora and fauna, which are of great importance to the long-term survival of those co-evolved species and the health and sustainability of those ecosystems [8]
- We believe that, generally speaking, the wild horse advocacy, together with organized wild horse and burro non-profit organizations have failed to influence or achieve the proper natural protection and conservation of wild horses and burros pursuant to the intent of the 1971 Act, even having had the benefits of decades of time combined with over \$100-Million in total donations towards achieving that goal. And by any legitimate business standards, that result is a failure [9]
- We believe that there is a natural, holistic, humane and cost-effective means for the management and conservation of the remaining wild horses in America using a new paradigm called '**Wild Horse Fire Brigade**' [10]

1. For the past several decades, numerous Wild Horse & Burro ('WHB') non-profit organizations have debated and lobbied against the Bureau of Land Management's ('BLM') management paradigm. Factually speaking, the BLM's management of American wild horses is in clear violation of the preamble (Intent) of the 1971 Act signed by President Nixon to protect and conserve America's remaining wild horses. The key stated intentions of the **Wild and Free-Roaming Horses and Burros Act of 1971** (WFRHBA) are recited as follows:

*"It is the policy of Congress that wild free-roaming horses and burros shall be protected from capture, branding, harassment, or death; and to accomplish this they are to be considered in the area where presently found, as an integral part of the natural system of the public lands."*

Arguably, the 1971 Act has been so diluted over the past 50-years by illicit, monetary driven policies and actions by Bureau of Land Management ('BLM'), that virtually all of the stated key intentions of 1971 Act are no longer observed or honored.

As we clearly see in the news today, the BLM, the United States Forest Service (USFS) as well as the U.S. Fish & Wildlife are all engaged in actions that are in conflict with every cited intention of the preamble of the 1971 Act. And these agencies, along with others, including some non-profits have/are promoting and/or are engaged in one or more of the following actions; *rounding-up, capturing, branding, harassing, physical mutilation via castration, chemical treatments of wild horses and allegedly providing a conduit for the slaughter* of American wild horses.

2. Recent scientific evidence (cultural archaeology, paleontology and genetics) combined with prior scientific research supports the thesis that wild horses are a 'native species' and 'wildlife' in North America. See: <https://scholarworks.alaska.edu/handle/11122/7592>

3. There is now substantial scientific evidence (cultural archaeology, paleontology and genetics) supporting the thesis that splinter populations of native wild horses did survive the Ice Age, contrary to older speculation.

4. Additional domesticated horses which arrived on continent with the Spanish explorers merely represented a reintroduction of a native species that has migrated off the North American continent approximately 15-17 thousand years ago. See: <https://www.horsetalk.co.nz/2017/10/23/three-great-myths-america-wild-horses/>

5. Recent as well as qualified historical accounts and forensic evidence of wild horses being depredated by bears, mountain lions (aka; puma, cougar), wolves and coyotes is now abundant and totally discredits and debunks the U.S. Bureau of Land Management's ('BLM') posit that "wild horses have no natural predators". See: [https://esc.rutgers.edu/fact\\_sheet/the-basics-of-equine-behavior/](https://esc.rutgers.edu/fact_sheet/the-basics-of-equine-behavior/)

6. The BLM's current management and insistence that wild horses be managed in areas commingled with livestock, where the co-evolved predators have been eliminated with great prejudice and at great cost to American taxpayers, creating the human-caused problem of over-population of wild horses. This flawed management practice of keeping wild horses segregated from their co-evolved natural predators also disengages the critically important evolutionary process of Natural Selection which accomplishes both population management and maintains the genetic vigor of wild horses by naturally culling the sick, weak, diseased and elderly horses from the breeding populations.

7. The use of chemical treatments (PZP and GonaCon) and other similar artificial means of wild horse population management is by definition a form of Selective Breeding, which interferes with natural processes and herd dynamics that are essential to genetic vigor and the survival of fittest animals. It is a very well-known and documented scientific fact that human influences by any means, on any aspects of breeding animals, results in changes in breeding dynamics that result in genetic erosion. See: [https://www.einnews.com/pr\\_news/556911295/killing-the-wild-in-wild-horses-the-travesty-of-american-wild-horse-advocacy-and-management](https://www.einnews.com/pr_news/556911295/killing-the-wild-in-wild-horses-the-travesty-of-american-wild-horse-advocacy-and-management)

8. Having evolved on the North American continent over a period of nearly 2-million years, native species American wild horses (*Equus Caballus*) have also co-evolved with numerous other species of flora and fauna. Wild horses benefit these many co-evolved species of flora and fauna in many ways, that if fully detailed would fill many pages of a book. One of many examples of a symbiotic co-evolutionary mutualism is that of grasses and plants that are part of the natural forage for wild horses. Unlike imported species of livestock that arrived on the North American continent with Spanish explorers and settlers, which have complex stomachs that digest the seeds of North American plants and grasses, wild horses have a simple digestive system that passes most of the seeds they consume back onto the landscape in their dung, and such seeds are able to germinate, thus completing the life-cycle of those North American grasses and plants.

9. Winston Churchill said; “never let a good crises go to waste”. It seems that numerous wild horse and burro non-profit organizations are monetizing the ongoing plight of American wild horses. Even going as far as to promote and implement the uses of artificial means of population controls using chemical treatment (PZP/GonaCon) and castration of wild horses, which disintermediates [Natural Selection](#), in order to continue the mismanagement and plight of wild horses in herd areas that are ecologically unfit for naturally-living wild horse populations. It’s no stretch of the facts to suggest that; a natural, holistic and humane solution to the plight of wild horses that is also cost-effective, would end the ongoing monetization of the horrific plight of American wild horses.

10. Science and empirical facts support the principals of the natural management plan for wild horses known as the **Wild Horse Fire Brigade management plan**.

The benefits to all public land stakeholders, American taxpayers, and the wild horses, by implementing this Plan are numerous, and the plan is very cost-effective.

Details of the plan and the ten-foregoing points are covered in much greater detail by numerous published scientific studies at the ‘Resources’ link on our website ([www.WHFB.us](http://www.WHFB.us)) and in this [page at the website](#):

[https://www.wildhorsefirebrigade.org/files/ugd/b50928\\_b546b19ef08441349993b0d3fd8111eb.pdf](https://www.wildhorsefirebrigade.org/files/ugd/b50928_b546b19ef08441349993b0d3fd8111eb.pdf)