



## Frequently Asked Questions and Answers (FAQs)

**Q:** How long has the Wild Horse Fire Brigade (WHFB) been around?

**A:** The founder, William E. Simpson II, informally started WHFB in 2014. He lives-among and studies the free-roaming wild horses on the edge of critical wilderness and was recently awarded ownership of the wild horse “herd”, which he has studied since 2014, and serves as the pilot model for the WHFB Plan.

**Q:** What is Wild Horse Fire Brigade (‘WHFB’)?

**A:** WHFB is a Plan to save thousands of wild horses. It is also the name of our recently formed non-profit 501-c-3 organization with an *all-volunteer* team and board of directors. Using our Plan, we strive to save native species American wild horses by re-wilding and relocating them into remote wilderness areas that are economically and ecologically appropriate and away from areas where they are deemed to be in conflict on public lands.

**Q:** What are ‘economically and ecologically appropriate wilderness areas’, and how much area is needed?

**A:** There is an estimated 110-million acres of critical/designated wilderness areas in the United States. These areas are rich with native forage and water resources, and are at grave risk for decimation by catastrophic wildfire. By utilizing about 20-million of these acres, 50,000 wild horses could be rewilded out of costly off-range holding, out of kill pens, and out of areas where there is constant conflict with livestock and also mineral/mining operations. These horses could be restored to appropriate critical wilderness areas as keystone herbivores at a distribution rate of one (1) horse per 400-acres.

**Q:** Can deployed wild horses reduce the frequency and intensity of catastrophic wildfire?

**A:** Yes! Over 100 peer-reviewed published scientific papers and studies prove that restoring herbivory results in both a reduction of the frequency and intensity of wildfire. Visit URL

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

**Q:** Is there any law that supports the rewilding and/or relocation of wild horses rounded-up by the Bureau of Land Management (‘BLM’) U.S. Fish and Wildlife (‘USFW’) or the United States Forest Service (‘USFS’)?

**A:** Yes. The existing law that can support the WHFB plan is titled; *Humane Transfer of Excess Animals Act*.

**Q:** What is the Humane Transfer of Excess Animals Act and how does it work?

**A:** In a nutshell: Any federal, state, or local government authority can obtain wild horses that have been removed from public lands, and arguably, wild horses that are targeted for removal.

**Q:** What happens next once state and/or local authorities obtain wild horses and can they be rewilded?

**A:** State and local authorities can arguably use the wild horses obtained for wildfire fuels grazing via cooperative agreements with state, county and federal forest managers, as is already being done with livestock.



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**Q:** Will rewilded/relocated wild horses lose their protections under the existing Wild Free-Roaming Horses and Burros Act” of 1971 (the ‘Act’) if they are restored to remote wilderness outside Herd Management Areas (HMAs) under the Humane Transfer of Excess Animals Act (‘HTA’).

**A:** Yes, they lose their “so-called protections” under the 1971 Act. However, under the HTA, wild horses transferred are called ‘work animals’ and come with new and more powerful protections for their health, safety and welfare.

**Q:** What protections do wild horses have under the HTA?

**A:** The HTA states: “A Federal, State, or local government agency receiving an excess wild horse or burro pursuant to subsection (a) shall not— (1) destroy the horse or burro in a manner that results in the destruction of the horse or burro into a commercial product; (2) sell or otherwise transfer the horse or burro in a manner that results in the destruction of the horse or burro for processing into a commercial product; or (3) euthanize the horse or burro, except on the recommendation of a licensed veterinarian in a case of severe injury, illness, or advanced age.” The full HTA can be reviewed at this URL:

[https://www.wildhorsefirebrigade.org/files/ugd/b50928\\_28e912cdc3074017972cc562696aea33.pdf](https://www.wildhorsefirebrigade.org/files/ugd/b50928_28e912cdc3074017972cc562696aea33.pdf)

**Q:** What about the protections for wild horses under the 1971 Act, aren’t they the best for wild horses?

**A:** No! As we see across the landscape, under existing BLM’s management of wild horses under the 1971 Act, they are being subjected to virtually all of the events prohibited by the stated intent of the 1971 Act. The 1971 Act states that: “It is the policy of Congress that wild free-roaming horses and burros shall be protected from; capture, branding, harassment and death”. As it is evident across HMAs, under the 1971 Act and BLM management, wild horses are being rounded-up (‘captured’), ‘branded’, harassed by people with high-powered gas rifles stalking and shooting wild horses with chemicals that cause genetic erosion (‘harassment’), and finally, some horses are ending up in the slaughter pipeline (‘death’). Given these horrific realities what protections under the 1971 Act are even being obeyed and the answer is NONE!

**Q:** If the answer is rewilding horses deep into wilderness areas (where there isn’t a conflict with livestock or mining/mineral corporations) then why hasn’t it been done before now?

**A:** Follow the money! The Bureau of Land Management, along with Forest Service, receive over \$100-million annually of taxpayer dollars to play the wild horse “roundup” game. Even wild horse advocacy groups are dominantly about gathering donations to continue their paychecks or continue lawsuits against the government that history shows are doomed to fail. Wild horse advocacy groups (NOT to be confused with wild horse sanctuaries who work diligently to retrieve wild horses from kill pens) have a terrible track record of collecting tens of \$-millions of dollars and accomplishing nothing except reporting more and more inhumane roundups of wild horses along with promoting selective breeding using chemical treatments like PZP and GonaCon. There are a few exceptions to this statement but across the board WHFB, with it’s all volunteer board, are the last hope for most of these wild horses as sanctuaries cannot sustainably continue to save the majority of animals from the kill pens.