

Comments from the public regarding National Wild Horse and Burro Advisory Board Meeting
October 13 and 14, 2011

I am Kristi Wright from North Yarmouth Maine. I do not represent any specific group – only a concerned taxpayer and citizen, with an interest in responsible use of our nation’s resources and tax dollars.

I would like the board to:

1.) encourage, support and allow the Bureau of Land Management officials to follow and carryout the duties and responsibilities of the The Wild Free-Roaming Horses and Burrow Act of 1971, specifically to manage. . . in a manner that is designed to achieve and maintain a thriving natural ecological balance on the public lands.

The solutions are obvious: if you have too much of a resource, you need to sell it without conditions so that you can have the remaining resources to care for the rest of the herd. You also need to stop producing that resource – sterilizing most of the horse population is a practical and effective control

2.) work to eliminate the short-term and long-term holding of excess feral horses -- to the cost of \$36 to \$37 million tax dollars each year. Again, the solution to this problem is to sell outright these horses. As a mother, I actually feel a little sick when I hear of this amount of money. There are children in this country who should be treated with such consideration and funding.

3.) continue to support the adoption of the mustangs by decreasing the paperwork and requirements and burden required by adopters in securing and owning and using these animals.

4.) remember the reasonable, moderate and practical people that I represent. I don’t have an organization. I’m a local community volunteer in my home town in Maine – we don’t have wild horses or even federal public lands, but I grew up in Colorado and understand this issue well. I am raising my two children while my husband works long-hours. I care for my own horses everyday and try to ride them as much as possible. I am a voter and a taxpayer and I want the board to remember and to have the courage to take a stand for common sense.

Follow the law as it is outlined. Have a wild horse herd, but don’t let the horses ruin the land for anything else. Care for the horses but not to the tune of spending more than \$35 million dollars a year feeding animals that will serve no purpose and aren’t wild anymore. Follow a scientific approach – not an emotional mythical approach – to the management. .

Listen to stakeholders but listen carefully – not to the loudest voices -- but the voices of people who know the land, who live on the land, who understand the land and the animals and who are willing to work out solutions, not just waste time and tax dollars achieving unattainable results.

And to the BLM employees, thank you for your service to this country.

Thank you