



Animal Rez-Q Inc
Intertribal Non-Profit Animal Services
PO Box 387, Window Rock (Navajo Nation), AZ 86515

Requesting the Indian Affairs Committee of the New Mexico Legislature for your support to vote NAY (No) to Amendment 2296 to the Infrastructure and Transportation Bill, blocking this amendment from becoming law. Proposed by Senators Menendez, Sinema, Portman.

1. We oppose this amendment because the ability to ship excess feral horses to Mexico and Canada is critical to our overall horse management strategy for the Navajo Nation.
2. The degradation of our range lands and loss of traditional meat sources (wildlife) by excess feral horses not only eating all the forage but also chasing away deer, elk, pronghorns, and other native species leaves us no other option than to gather and ship these feral horses.
3. Adoptions of feral horses are not a sufficient answer alone.
4. Navajo herbalists are having a difficult time finding traditional roots and plants.
5. Many Native American reservations, including Navajo are just starting to get a handle on these problems. If this option goes away, we will be right back to where we started decades ago.
6. Most if not all Native American reservations with horses are using this option.
7. There is an increase in off-reservation individuals dumping horses on Navajo lands. Other Native American tribes are experiencing similar release of horses onto tribal lands.
8. Due to the drought, all livestock, horses and wildlife are struggling to find enough vegetation to support themselves. Navajo livestock producers have to purchase supplemental feed for their livestock.
9. Feral horses consume large quantities of water daily, a 1,000-pound horse consumes 10 gallons per day. Our Navajo livestock producers have to haul water to support their livestock and feral horses deplete what was harvested, causing the ranchers to haul more water.

Historically knowledge:

1. Horses will consume native grasses by pulling the vegetation by the roots and will proceed to dig out the roots with their hooves. This process destroys the plant and no regeneration of the vegetation will occur. This leaves barren soil, soil erosion and lost of the healthy top soil for other native vegetation to survive.
2. "In 2016, the Navajo Nation Department of Fish and Wildlife along with Eagle Environmental, Inc. conducted the first systematic survey and density estimate for free-ranging horses within the Navajo Nation. It was estimated a total of 38,223 horses of all ages occurred within the study area and 55 burros."^{1, 2}
3. "Since domestic horse slaughter ceased in 2007, the slaughter horse market has shifted to Canada and Mexico. From 2006 through 2010, U.S. horse exports for slaughter increased by 148 and 660 percent to Canada and Mexico, respectively."³

Therefore, Animal Rez-Q Inc. is requesting your support to stop Amendment 2296 to the Infrastructure and Transportation Bill, for the health, safety and welfare of our Navajo (Dine') People and our future generations.

Glenda Davis, President
Animal Rez-Q Inc.



Animal Rez-Q Inc
Intertribal Non-Profit Animal Services
PO Box 387, Window Rock (Navajo Nation), AZ 86515

Resources:

1. "Horse Management Strategy for the Navajo Nation", Department of Fish & Wildlife, 2016-2017.
2. "Survey of Free-Ranging Horses (Equus caballus) on the Navajo Nation, Final Report," Prepared by Navajo Nation Department of Fish & Wildlife, Eagle Environmental Inc. and Western EcoSystems Technology, Inc., February 13, 2017.
3. 2011 GAO Report to congressional committees, Horse Welfare, Actions Needed to Address the Unintended Consequences from Cessation of Domestic Slaughter," June 2011.