



**Mustangs on Public Lands in New Mexico**

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**Presentation to the New Mexico Water and Natural Resources Committee  
 September 30, 2022 ~ Wild Horse Management**

**1. Wild Horse Management in the West**

- Primary method - round up, removal, holding, and adoption
- Results of primary reliance on removals – An example using outcome data from the Bureau of Land Management (BLM)
- Why do we have more wild horses on BLM range today after removing over 250,000 animals?

**2. A New Mexico Mustang Named Fire and Evolution in Wild Horse Management**

- Starvation on the range
- New Mexico leads the nation in facets of science-based, technology-driven, humane management and respectful, collaborative public-private-non-profit partnerships
- Working to balance herd numbers for herd health, other wildlife health, and range capacity – An example of herd planning with Sandoval County

**3. A Path Forward for Humane, Effective Wild Horse Management – Policy Implications**

- Legal Framework for Herd Planning
- New Mexico State Department Technical Assistance and Oversight
- Balancing Wild Horse Herd Numbers and other Wildlife on the Range in the Face of Habitat Loss, Drought, and Climate Change – Exploring Options