



(Original Signature of Member)

117TH CONGRESS
2D SESSION

H. R. _____

To amend the Act commonly known as the Wild Free-roaming Horses and Burros Act to prohibit certain uses of aircraft with respect to the management of wild free-roaming horses and burros, and for other purposes.

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Ms. TITUS introduced the following bill; which was referred to the Committee
on _____

A BILL

To amend the Act commonly known as the Wild Free-roaming Horses and Burros Act to prohibit certain uses of aircraft with respect to the management of wild free-roaming horses and burros, and for other purposes.

1 *Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representa-*
2 *tives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,*

3 **SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.**

4 This Act may be cited as the “Wild Horse and Burro
5 Protection Act of 2022”.

1 **SEC. 2. FINDINGS.**

2 Congress finds the following:

3 (1) As part of efforts to control equine popu-
4 lations under law, the Bureau of Land Management
5 is directed to humanely capture wild free-roaming
6 horses and burros for adoption.

7 (2) The Bureau of Land Management contracts
8 directly with private enterprises, including helicopter
9 companies, to round up equines at rates between
10 \$500-\$800 per animal.

11 (3) The use of helicopters to chase equines over
12 prolonged distances, usually on rough terrain, is par-
13 ticularly dangerous, and can frighten the animals
14 and lead to deadly situations.

15 (4) In January 2022, during the horse gath-
16 ering at the Pancake Complex in central Nevada, a
17 young colt was chased for miles by helicopter, ulti-
18 mately gravely injuring itself, and necessitating the
19 need for the animal to be shot and killed.

20 (5) Since 2011, the Bureau of Land Manage-
21 ment's top three helicopter contractors have col-
22 lected over \$36.8 million in taxpayer funding for
23 their services, including over \$5.3 million since 2021
24 alone.

1 (6) Scientific research shows that more humane
2 and cost-effective alternatives exist to control equine
3 populations, including fertility controls.

4 (7) Currently, the Bureau of Land Manage-
5 ment’s Wild Horse and Burro Program spends less
6 than one percent of its budget on implementing fer-
7 tility controls.

8 (8) The elimination of helicopters from the Bu-
9 reau of Land Management’s gatherings would pro-
10 vide a more humane method of capturing equines,
11 and provide significant savings to taxpayers.

12 **SEC. 3. AMENDMENTS TO THE WILD FREE-ROAMING**
13 **HORSES AND BURROS ACT.**

14 Section 9 of the Act commonly known as the Wild
15 Free-roaming Horses and Burros Act (Public Law 92–
16 195; 16 U.S.C. 1338a) is amended—

17 (1) by striking “In administering this Act” and
18 inserting “(a) IN GENERAL.—In administering this
19 Act”;

20 (2) by striking “helicopters or, for the purpose
21 of transporting captured animals, motor vehicles”
22 and inserting “motor vehicles for the purpose of
23 transporting captured animals”;

24 (3) by striking “fixed-wing aircraft, or heli-
25 copters, or to” and inserting “or” ; and

1 (4) by adding at the end the following:

2 “(b) PROHIBITION ON CERTAIN USES OF AIR-
3 CRAFT.—In administering this Act, the Secretary may not
4 use or contract for the use of helicopters or fixed-wing air-
5 craft for the purposes of rounding up or gathering wild
6 free-roaming horses and burros.”.

7 **SEC. 4. GAO REPORT.**

8 Not later than 1 year after the date of the enactment
9 of this Act, the Comptroller General shall submit, to the
10 Committee on Natural Resources of the House of Rep-
11 resentatives and the Committee on Energy and Natural
12 Resources of the Senate, a report that describes—

13 (1) humane alternatives to the use of heli-
14 copters and fixed-wing aircraft in managing wild
15 free-roaming horse and burro populations;

16 (2) job creation opportunities presented by the
17 use of such humane alternatives; and

18 (3) the effects of aircraft, including unmanned
19 aircraft systems, on wild free-roaming horse and
20 burro populations.