

Wild Horse and Burro Management.—The Committee recommends \$156,100,000 which supports implementation of the May 2020 plan and includes up to \$11,000,000 for research on reversible immunocontraceptive fertility control and its administration and includes \$206,000 for fleet enhancement. The Committee restates the need for the Wild Horse and Burro Task Force to be actively engaged and to leverage resources to protect the welfare of the wild horses and burros and conserve and restore the range for the habitat it provides to other species and the ecosystem services that are essential to protect human and species health and well-being in the face of climate change.

The Committee directs the Task Force to re-view the Bureau's efforts in fertility control, examine how to increase off-range holdings that can sustain year-round grazing by many horses, and review the Adoption Incentive Program to make sure there are no weaknesses that would jeopardize the welfare of these animals. Staffing is critical to effectively administer this program and the Bureau is directed to ensure the program is at full staffing capacity especially in the areas of contracting. The challenges of this program are intensified by the historic drought conditions being experienced in the West.

The Committee directs the Bureau to develop plans that ensure they can administer fertility control, conduct targeted removals from the most heavily and impacted population areas, expand long-term off range holding and any alternatives, and increase adoptions. To better accomplish these goals, the Bureau should establish public/private partnerships, to include working with veterans and wild horse organizations, to implement a robust immunocontraceptive fertility control program.

The Bureau must also ensure that all removals are conducted in strict compliance with the Bureau's Comprehensive Animal Welfare Program and any population growth suppression strategies must be proven, safe, and humane. The strategy will not include any sale or actions that result in the destruction of healthy animals, which continues to be prohibited by this bill.

The Bureau is directed to provide quarterly updates to the Committee on the allocation of resources, achievement of performance metrics, input from the Departmental task force, efficacy of identifying and relocating horses to different Herd Management Areas, and to discuss any proposed changes to the current course of action.

Wild Horse and Burro Management.—The Committee recommends \$162,093,000 which supports implementation of the May 2020 plan and includes \$11,000,000 for administration of and research on reversible immunocontraceptive fertility control; and \$504,000 to transition to a zero emission fleet.

The Committee is making a large Federal investment in the wild horse and burro program and wants to ensure that these resources protect the welfare of the wild horses and burros and conserve the range for the habitat it provides to other species and the ecosystem services that are essential to protect human and species health and well-being in the face of climate change.

The Committee directs the Secretary to establish a task force to bring experts from all Interior bureaus together to address the challenge of wild horses and burros. The Bureau of Land Management is directed to use \$11,000,000 of the funds appropriated for this program to enter cooperative efforts with other Federal partners to significantly progress the administration of and research on reversible immunocontraceptive fertility control. This should include public-private partnerships and simultaneous evaluation of multiple fertility control alternatives at a meaningful scale.

To tackle this challenge, the Bureau needs to focus on achieving a sustainable Appropriate Management Level while ensuring that all removals are conducted in strict compliance with the Bureau's Comprehensive Animal Welfare Program and any population growth suppression strategies must be proven, safe, and humane. The strategy will not include any sale or actions that result in the destruction of healthy animals, which continues to be prohibited by this bill.

The Bureau is also directed to protect against any violation of the law. Specifically, the Bureau is to review its Adoption Incentive program and work with the Office of the Solicitor to strengthen contractual language and address any weakness in the program that would jeopardize the welfare of these animals.

The Bureau is directed to provide quarterly updates to the Committee on the allocation of resources, achievement of performance metrics, input from the Departmental task force, efficacy of identifying and relocating horses to different Herd Management Areas, and to discuss any proposed changes to the current course of action.

On the left is FY 2023, key words highlighted. On the right is 2022, key words highlighted.

