**UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR**
**BUREAU OF LAND MANAGEMENT**
**AND**
**UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE**
**FOREST SERVICE**

# NATIONAL WILD HORSE AND BURRO ADVISORY BOARD

## CHARTER

1. **COMMITTEE'S OFFICIAL DESIGNATION:** Wild Horse and Burro Advisory Board (Board).

2. **AUTHORITY:** The Board is established pursuant to Section 7 (16 U.S.C. 1337) of the Wild Free-Roaming Horses and Burros Act (16 U.S.C. 1331-1340) (Act), and is regulated by the Federal Advisory Committee Act (FACA), as amended, 5 U.S.C. Appendix 2. In addition, the Bureau of Land Management (BLM) is subject to additional standards and procedures for the creation, operation, and termination of BLM advisory committees. Refer to the 1995 BLM regulations (43 C.F.R. Subsection 1784) for specific regulations regarding composition (1784.2-1); avoidance of conflict of interest (1784.2-2); calls for nominations (1784.4-1); notice of meetings (1784.4-2); open meetings (1784.4-3); records (1784.5-3); course of instruction for members (1784.6-1(f)); and quorum requirements (1784.6-1(h)).

3. **OBJECTIVES AND SCOPE OF ACTIVITIES:** The Board will assist and advise the Secretary of the Interior, through the Director of BLM, and the Secretary of Agriculture, through the Chief of the Forest Service (FS), on wild horse and burro policy formulation and oversight of the Wild Horse and Burro Program (Program) administered under the provisions of the Act.

4. **DESCRIPTION OF DUTIES:** At the request of the Director of BLM, and in an advisory capacity only, the Board will gather to analyze information and consider public comments in order to offer advice and develop recommendations for the Secretary of the Interior, the Director of BLM, the Secretary of Agriculture, and the Chief of the FS on matters relating to their responsibilities under the Wild Free-Roaming Horses and Burros Act of 1971. Those responsibilities include the protection and management of wild free-roaming horses and burros as components of the public lands; designation and maintenance of specific ranges on public lands as sanctuaries for their protection and preservation (where appropriate); management at the minimal feasible level to protect natural ecological balance of all wildlife species which inhabit such lands, particularly endangered wildlife species, and to ensure forage allocations on any such lands take into consideration the needs of other wildlife species which inhabit such lands.

   Specifically, the Board may be directed to:

   a. Review current and proposed management policies on the protection and management of wild horses and burros;

b. Review the disposition and humane handling of wild horses and burros and recommend appropriate changes that will facilitate these actions;

c. Review current Program guidance and procedures and advise BLM and FS as to whether they are effective for implementing program policy;

d. Advise BLM and FS on ways to stimulate public and private participation to facilitate adoptions and sales;

e. Advise BLM and FS on ways to foster cooperation and provide liaison among Federal, state, tribal, and local governments, private organizations and affected interests, humane groups, the scientific community, and others;

f. Advise BLM and FS in assessing the scientific basis for managing populations of wild horses and burros; and

g. Compile a written report to the Secretaries of the Interior and Agriculture highlighting the results of its deliberations and make recommendations concerning major policy issues as requested by the Director of BLM and Chief of the FS.

5. **OFFICIAL TO WHOM THE BOARD REPORTS:** The Board reports to the Secretary of the Interior, through the Director of BLM, and the Secretary of Agriculture, through the Chief of the FS.

6. **SUPPORT:** Administrative support for activities of the Board will be provided by BLM.

7. **ESTIMATED ANNUAL OPERATING COSTS AND STAFF YEARS:** The annual operating costs associated with supporting the Board's activities are estimated to be $155,000, including all direct and indirect expenses and 0.7 Federal staff years support.

8. **DESIGNATED FEDERAL OFFICER:** The Designated Federal Officer (DFO) is BLM's Assistant Director for Resources and Planning, who is a full-time Federal employee appointed in accordance with Agency procedures. The DFO will approve or call all of the Board and subcommittee meetings, prepare and approve all meeting agendas, attend all Board and subcommittee meetings, adjourn any meeting when the DFO determines adjournment to be in the public interest, and chair meetings when directed to do so by the Secretary.

9. **ESTIMATED NUMBER AND FREQUENCY OF MEETINGS:** The Board will meet approximately one to four times annually, and at such other times as designated by the DFO.

10. **DURATION:** Continuing.

11. **TERMINATION:** The Board will be inactive 2 years from the date the Charter is filed, unless, prior to that date, it is renewed in accordance with the provisions of Section 14 of the FACA. The Board will not meet or take any action without a valid current charter.

12. **MEMBERSHIP AND DESIGNATION:** Members will be appointed and serve at the pleasure of the Secretaries of the Interior and Agriculture. Members will be appointed as representatives or special Government employees from the following organizations or categories:

    a. Wild horse and burro advocacy groups;

    b. Wild horse and burro research institutions (especially genetics, population biology, and equine behavior);

    c. Veterinary medicine (equine science);

    d. Natural resources management organizations (especially rangeland science);

    e. Humane advocacy groups;

    f. Wildlife management organizations;

    g. Livestock management organizations;

    h. General public (with special knowledge about equine behavior); or

    i. General public (with special knowledge about protection of wild horses and burros, management of wildlife, animal husbandry, or natural resource management).

    The Board will have no more than nine members, and members may not be employees of the Federal or state governments.

    Members will be appointed to the Board to serve 3-year terms.

13. **ETHICS RESPONSIBILITIES OF MEMBERS:** No Board or subcommittee member will participate in any specific party matter including a lease, license, permit, contract, claim, agreement, grant, or related litigation with the Departments of the Interior or Agriculture in which the member has a direct financial interest. Members of the Board shall be required to disclose to the DFO their direct or indirect interest in leases, licenses, permits, contracts, claims, grants, or any specific party matter that involve lands or resources administered by BLM or FS, or any litigation related to those matters.

    For the purposes of this paragraph, indirect interests include holdings of a spouse, minor child, immediate family member, relatives, business partners, or employers that would benefit financially from the Board's recommendations. The DFO must report any required disclosures under this paragraph to the BLM Deputy Ethics Counselor, who will coordinate

with the Departments of the Interior or Agriculture Ethics Office as appropriate. The Department of the Interior will provide materials to members appointed as special Government employees explaining their ethical obligations. Consistent with the ethics requirements, members will endeavor to avoid any actions that would cause the public to question the integrity of the Board's operations, activities, or advice. The provisions of this paragraph do not affect any other statutory or regulatory ethical obligations to which a member may be subject.

14. **SUBCOMMITTEES:** Subject to the DFO's approval, subcommittees can be formed for the purposes of compiling information or conducting research. However, such subcommittees must act only under the direction of the DFO and must report their recommendations to the full Board for consideration. Subcommittees must not provide advice or work products directly to the Agency. Subcommittees will meet as necessary to accomplish their assignments, subject to the approval of the DFO and the availability of resources.

15. **RECORDKEEPING:** The Records of the Board, and formal and informal subcommittees of the Board, shall be handled in accordance with General Record Schedule 6.2, and other approved Agency records disposition schedule. These records shall be available for public inspection and copying, subject to the Freedom of Information Act, 5 U.S.C. 552.

Sally Jewell
Secretary of the Interior

JUN 13 2016
Date Signed

JUL 25 2016
Date Filed

Tom J. Vilsack
Secretary of Agriculture

JUL 20 2016
Date Signed