

2024 Current Fiscal Year Report: Wild Horse and Burro Advisory Board

Report Run Date: 03/28/2024 05:41:01 PM

1. Department or Agency

Department of the Interior

2. Fiscal Year

2024

3. Committee or Subcommittee

Wild Horse and Burro Advisory
Board

**3b. GSA Committee
No.**

618

4. Is this New During Fiscal Year? **5. Current Charter** **6. Expected Renewal Date** **7. Expected Term Date**

No 02/05/2024 02/05/2026

8a. Was Terminated During Fiscal Year? **8b. Specific Termination Authority** **8c. Actual Term Date**

No 5 U.S.C. Ch. 10

9. Agency Recommendation for Next Fiscal Year **10a. Legislation Req to Terminate?** **10b. Legislation Pending?**

Continue Not Applicable Not Applicable

11. Establishment Authority Statutory (Congress Created)

12. Specific Establishment Authority **13. Effective Date** **14. Committee Type** **14c. Presidential?**

Wild Free Roaming Horses and Burros Act of 1971 12/15/1971 Continuing No

15. Description of Committee Non Scientific Program Advisory Board

16a. Total Number of Reports No Reports for this Fiscal Year

17a. Open 0 **17b. Closed** 0 **17c. Partially Closed** 0 **Other Activities** 0 **17d. Total** 0

Meetings and Dates

No Meetings

Current **Next**
FY **FY**

18a(1). Personnel Pmts to Non-Federal Members	\$0.00	\$0.00
18a(2). Personnel Pmts to Federal Members	\$0.00	\$0.00
18a(3). Personnel Pmts to Federal Staff	\$0.00	\$0.00
18a(4). Personnel Pmts to Non-Member Consultants	\$0.00	\$0.00
18b(1). Travel and Per Diem to Non-Federal Members	\$0.00	\$0.00
18b(2). Travel and Per Diem to Federal Members	\$0.00	\$0.00
18b(3). Travel and Per Diem to Federal Staff	\$0.00	\$0.00
18b(4). Travel and Per Diem to Non-member Consultants	\$0.00	\$0.00
18c. Other(rents,user charges, graphics, printing, mail, etc.)	\$0.00	\$0.00
18d. Total	\$0.00	\$0.00
19. Federal Staff Support Years (FTE)	0.00	0.00

20a. How does the Committee accomplish its purpose?

The Board assists and advises the Secretary of the Interior, through the Director of the BLM, and the Secretary of Agriculture, through the Chief of the Forest Service, on wild horse and burro policy formulation and oversight of the Wild Horse and Burro Program administered under the provisions of the Act.

20b. How does the Committee balance its membership?

The Advisory Board membership is balanced in terms of categories of interest represented and geographic locations. Each member, who, based on their professional background, training, experience and/or affiliation, has knowledge or

special expertise that qualifies him or her to provide advice from among the listed categories. Advisory Board members who serve as representatives are in the positions of wild horse and burro advocacy; wild horse and burro research; humane advocacy; wildlife management; livestock management; natural resource management; veterinary medicine; and two positions representing public interest: one with a focus on equine behavior and one with a focus on protection of wild horses and burros, management of wildlife, animal husbandry and/or natural resource management.

20c. How frequent and relevant are the Committee Meetings?

The Advisory Board generally meets twice a year, and may meet up to four times a year according to the Charter if the DFO deems necessary. The Committee meetings are highly relevant, providing the BLM and the USFS with recommendations aimed at addressing the most pressing issues and needs.

20d. Why can't the advice or information this committee provides be obtained elsewhere?

The Advisory Board gathers and analyzes current information on wild horse and burro management and considers relevant public comments in order to offer advice and develop recommendations from a national perspective for the Secretary of the Interior, the Director of the Bureau of Land Management, the Secretary of Agriculture, and the Chief of the Forest Service on the management and protection of wild horses and burros.

20e. Why is it necessary to close and/or partially closed committee meetings?

All meetings are open to the public.

21. Remarks

The Board met October 4-6, 2022, and June 26-30, 2023.

Designated Federal Officer

David Jenkins BLM Assistant Director, Renewable Resources and Planning

Committee Members	Start	End	Occupation	Member Designation
Bechert, Ursula	01/11/2021	01/11/2024	Vice President for Research & Development, SpayVac-for-Wildlife, Inc.	Representative Member
Carlisle, Celeste	09/20/2018	08/25/2025	Biologist and Science Project Manager	Representative Member
French, James	01/11/2021	01/11/2024	Retired	Representative Member
Higbee, Varlin	09/06/2023	09/06/2026	Lincoln County Commissioner	Representative Member
Iocona, Gwenllian	09/06/2023	09/06/2026	Assistant Director, Arizona State University, Centre for Biodiversity Outcomes	Representative Member
Lenz, Tom	08/25/2022	08/25/2025	Senior Director, Equine Veterinary Services	Special Government Employee (SGE) Member
McAlpine, Susan	10/09/2019	09/06/2026	Retired	Representative Member
Pearson, Tammy	01/11/2021	01/11/2024	Beaver County Commissioner	Representative Member
Perryman, Barry	08/25/2022	08/25/2025	Professor of Rangeland Ecology and Management	Representative Member

Number of Committee Members Listed: 9

Narrative Description

The Wild Horse and Burro Advisory Board provides advice concerning the management, protection, and control of wild free-roaming horses and burros on public lands administered by the Department of the Interior, through the Bureau of Land Management (BLM), and the Department of Agriculture, through the U.S. Forest Service.

What are the most significant program outcomes associated with this committee?

	Checked if Applies
Improvements to health or safety	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Trust in government	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Major policy changes	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Advance in scientific research	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Effective grant making	<input type="checkbox"/>
Improved service delivery	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Increased customer satisfaction	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Implementation of laws or regulatory requirements	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Other	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>

Outcome Comments

The Board allows for the input from citizens with special training and expertise in the fields of wild horse and burro advocacy, humane advocacy, livestock management, wildlife management, equine research, veterinary medicine, natural resources management, equine behavior, and public interest.

What are the cost savings associated with this committee?

	Checked if Applies
None	<input type="checkbox"/>
Unable to Determine	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Under \$100,000	<input type="checkbox"/>
\$100,000 - \$500,000	<input type="checkbox"/>
\$500,001 - \$1,000,000	<input type="checkbox"/>
\$1,000,001 - \$5,000,000	<input type="checkbox"/>
\$5,000,001 - \$10,000,000	<input type="checkbox"/>
Over \$10,000,000	<input type="checkbox"/>
Cost Savings Other	<input type="checkbox"/>

Cost Savings Comments

Analysis has not been done to determine cost savings associated with the Wild Horse and Burro Advisory Board. However, the recommendations made by the Board are highly valued by the BLM and the Forest Service and have an influence on strategic direction

and program priorities.

What is the approximate Number of recommendations produced by this committee for the life of the committee?

372

Number of Recommendations Comments

The Board made the following 6 recommendations at the October 2022 meeting: the BLM and FS should centralize the WHB Programs and institute organizational changes that would increase their program effectiveness; the BLM and FS develop a definitive reporting process for the public to report potential animal welfare or adoption violations; the BLM continues to investigate vouchers as incentives for the Adoption Incentive Program; the BLM and FS investigate an agency avenue to build local partnerships/coalitions to support wild horse and burro care, ensure compliance and provide post adoption support; the BLM and USFS work with United States Geological Survey scientists to identify HMAs and Territories that will provide a statistically meaningful sample with which to test and validate the PopEquus model, under a diversity of field conditions, and that efforts begin immediately; and that the BLM use measurable objectives outlining targeted fertility control and multi-year plans for individual HMAs or territories. The Board made the following 8 recommendations at the June 2023 meeting: the BLM and the USFS develop operational plans outlining how robust, meaningful, programmatic fertility control will be incorporated into HMA and Territory management plans; the BLM and USFS begin determining the process of analysis that will enable locally relevant, short- and long-term range health considerations to guide decisions towards determining AML; the BLM and the USFS should further centralize their respective WH&B programs to increase the program's effectiveness and their ability to respond to emergencies; the BLM and the USFS explore creative ways to garner additional funding sources and capacities (as allowed by law or statute) outside of the appropriations process that will enable effective management of horse and burro populations; the BLM and USFS request consultations with Tribal Governments and initiate and/or maintain discussions with other government entities responsible for management of free-roaming horse populations to ensure actions taken in HMAs and on Territories are not undermined by emigration or immigration of horses and burros from other areas; the USFS continue to advocate for its own separate budget for management of wild, free-roaming horses and burros, given that 20% of the total free-roaming population is on USFS land; the Board supports the commitment of the agency to the CAWP and recommends continuing internal training and increasing the level of public educational opportunities; and the Board recommends continually refining and improving the level of care, handling and treatment provided by the WH&B Program.

What is the approximate Percentage of these recommendations that have been or will be Fully implemented by the agency?

70%

% of Recommendations Fully Implemented Comments

The BLM has is in the process of implementing recommendations.

What is the approximate Percentage of these recommendations that have been or will be Partially implemented by the agency?

30%

% of Recommendations Partially Implemented Comments

Many recommendations are broad in scope, complex, and/or involve additional resources (staff and funding) and multiple activities and actions taken over time.

Does the agency provide the committee with feedback regarding actions taken to implement recommendations or advice offered?

Yes ☒ No ☐ Not Applicable ☐

Agency Feedback Comments

Feedback is provided to the Board by written reports and presentations giving the results of analysis and research completed on each recommendation. These materials are usually provided at the Board meetings.

What other actions has the agency taken as a result of the committee's advice or recommendation?

Checked if Applies

Reorganized Priorities	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Reallocated resources	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Issued new regulation	<input type="checkbox"/>
Proposed legislation	<input type="checkbox"/>
Approved grants or other payments	<input type="checkbox"/>
Other	<input type="checkbox"/>

Action Comments

N/A

Is the Committee engaged in the review of applications for grants?

No

Grant Review Comments

N/A

How is access provided to the information for the Committee's documentation?

Checked if Applies

Contact DFO	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Online Agency Web Site	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Online Committee Web Site	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Online GSA FACA Web Site	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Publications	<input type="checkbox"/>
Other	<input type="checkbox"/>

Access Comments

N/A