

2025 Current Fiscal Year Report: Wild Horse and Burro Advisory Board

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1. Department or Agency

Department of the Interior

2. Fiscal Year

2025

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

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 17b. Closed 17c. Partially Closed 17d. Total

Meetings and Dates

Purpose

Start

End

The Board advises the Secretary of the Interior, the BLM Director, the Secretary of Agriculture, and the Chief of the U.S. Forest Service on matters pertaining to the management and protection of wild, free-roaming horses and burros on the Nation's public lands. Agenda topics included a BLM California Wild Horse and Burro Program overview; a U.S. Forest Service (FS) Wild Horse and Burro Program Region 5 update; BLM and FS Program updates, a discussion on BLM and FS Responses to Board Recommendations from December 2023; a Public Dashboard demonstration update; a PopEquus Modeling demonstration; a BLM Comprehensive Animal Welfare Program update; an update on the APHIS/BLM WHB Partnership; a presentation on Burro Ecology; and a FS comprehensive Equine Welfare Program Update.

01/07/2025 - 01/08/2025

Number of Committee Meetings Listed: 1

	Current FY	Next 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. Administrative Costs (FRNs, contractor support, In-person/hybrid/virtual meetings)	\$0.00	\$0.00

18d. Other (all other funds not captured by any other cost category)	\$0.00	\$0.00
18e. Total Costs	\$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 January 7-8, 2025.

Designated Federal Officer

Sharif Branham BLM Assistant Director,
Resources and Planning

Committee Members	Start	End	Occupation	Member Designation
Carlisle, Celeste	09/20/2018	08/25/2025	Biologist and Science Project Manager	Representative Member
French, James	10/16/2017	11/04/2027	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
King, Sarah	11/04/2024	11/04/2027	Research Scientist	Representative Member
Lenz, Tom	09/20/2018	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	11/04/2027	Beaver County Commissioner	Representative Member
Perryman, Barry	09/20/2018	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?

377

Number of Recommendations Comments

The Board made the following 4 recommendations at the January meeting: 1) The Board recommends in 2025 that the USFS and the BLM create detailed, measurable 5-year plans describing how they will incrementally reduce population size and growth in order to ultimately achieve range-wide AML. The plans should prioritize application of fertility control, administered remotely and/or in concert with gather-removals. 2) The Board recommends in 2025, and going forward, even if removals are constrained by availability of off-range holding space, application of fertility control should be prioritized as a tool to stabilize population growth in every HMA or WHT. This should include HMAs or WHTs where AML has not been achieved, and should be applied by gather, hold, release and/or

by remote darting. 3) The Board recommends that the BLM acquire a contractor for developing an immediately implementable, 2025-onward fertility control management protocol framework to maintain AML at the 45 HMAs currently at or near AML. 4) To the Secretaries of Agriculture and Interior, the Chief of the Forest Service and the National Director of the Bureau of Land Management: the Board recommends the formation of an interagency task force/planning group during the 2025 calendar year to investigate the feasibility and cost benefit of an interagency Wild Horse & Burro adoption center/facility to be located specifically in the Eastern United States.

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