

Slaughter of 90,000 Wild Horses May Proceed Despite 80% Objection From Public

President Donald Trump's budget proposal calls for saving \$10 million next year by selling wild horses. Horses captured throughout the West will likely be sold for slaughter, which current regulations do not allow. Wild horse advocates say the change would gut nearly a half-century of protection for wild horses – an icon of the American West – and could send thousands of free-roaming mustangs to foreign slaughterhouses for processing as food.

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Brutal Outlook for Healthy Wild Horses and Burros: BLM Calls for Shooting 90,000 <https://t.co/ePTwoYrYhJ> @greenpeaceusa @foe_us

– EcoWatch (@EcoWatch) October 20, 2017

In 1971, Congress passed the Wild Free-Roaming Horses and Burros Act, ending the practice of rounding up equines on America's ranges and killing them for meat. But today, some members of Congress want to return to the era of mass killing.

Polls show the majority of Americans do not favor killing horses, wild or domestic. But lobbyists for the cattle industry and hunting groups do because horses compete with

livestock and game species such as antelope for pasture and water. The Trump Administration's 2018 budget included a proposal that opens the door for the Bureau of Land Management (BLM) to save money by selling wild horses for slaughter. The congressional budget proposal would instead allow the BLM to cull young, healthy wild horses. Representatives say the horses would be "euthanized," the way homeless pets sometimes are.

As EcoWatch writes:

The American Wild Horse Campaign on Thursday harshly criticized Interior Sec. Ryan Zinke's appointment of Brian Steed, the former chief of staff for U.S. Rep. Chris Stewart (R-UT), as the acting director of the Bureau of Land Management (BLM) as dangerous and out of step with the wishes of the vast majority of Americans.

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"Americans don't want the government to be in the horse slaughter business, and Interior Secretary Zinke should appoint someone to lead the Bureau of Land Management who is committed to protecting, not destroying, America's historic mustangs," Roy concluded.

Roy added that the long-term leadership for this agency, which manages 245 million acres of public land in the West, should be determined through a full and transparent confirmation process, not a late-in-the-day political appointment by the secretary.

Recommended Reading:

- *President Trump Has Nominated A Pro-Vaccine Exec to Secretary of the Health and Human Services*
- *Why the U.S. Washes and Refrigerates Eggs, & Why Other Countries Don't*
- *Keystone Pipeline Has Leaked More Than 200K Gallons of Oil in South Dakota*

Sources:

- *Brutal Step Backward Wild Horses – The Humane Society*
- *Trump Budget Would Allow Sale of Wild Horses for Slaughter – Mercury News*
- *Slaughter of 90,000 Wild Horses Could Proceed Despite 80% Objection From American Public – Eco Watch*