Submitting Organization:
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March 25, 2025

BILL PROPOSAL:

SAVE THE WILD WEST: Natural Grassland Protection Act of 2025

I. Executive Summary

The American West stands at a crossroads: catastrophic wildfires, driven by climate change, mismanaged rangelands, and the loss of natural fire-mitigating species, are devastating communities, ecosystems, and economies. Each year, wildfires cost the U.S. between **$394 billion and $893 billion**, claiming lives, displacing wildlife, and reducing once-thriving landscapes to ash (*NOAA - Economic Analysis of Wildfires*). At the same time, the Bureau of Land Management (BLM) allocates over **$170 million annually** to public land management—much of it spent capturing and confining wild horses, a costly and misguided approach that erodes the very ecological balance necessary to prevent these disasters (*BLM - Wild Horse and Burro Management Overview*).

The Save the **Wild West: Grassland Protection Act of 2025** offers a bold and visionary solution: restoring America's wild horses to their rightful place on the land as a **free, natural, and cost-effective resource** for wildfire and climate resilience. By rewilding captured wild horses onto distressed public, private, and tribal lands, this initiative harnesses their **natural grazing behaviors** to reduce fire-prone vegetation, restore native grasslands, and protect water sources—dramatically lowering the risks of wildfire and drought (*PLUS ONE - Grazing as a Fire Mitigation Strategy*). This approach not only **preserves and revitalizes ecosystems** but also **reduces taxpayer burdens**, strengthens Indigenous land stewardship, and fosters **green job creation** in conservation and land management.

Wild horses are a **living legacy of the American West**, a beneficial **force of nature**, and an **untapped ally** in the fight against climate change and wildfire devastation. This bill **ensures the survival of America's last wild horses and burros**, securing their freedom not just as a moral and ecological imperative, but as a gift to future generations. By protecting these iconic creatures, we **restore the balance of our wildlands**, fortify communities against disaster, and reclaim a sustainable future for the American West. (BLM FY 2025 pg 8)

This groundbreaking initiative will:
✓ **Slash government costs**—eliminating nearly $100 million in annual BLM wild horse management expenses and significantly reducing wildfire suppression costs.

✓ **Protect communities**—using natural grazing patterns to clear fire-prone vegetation and create green firebreaks.
✓ **Restore ecosystems**—turning overgrazed deserts back into thriving grasslands, a key carbon sink to combat climate change.
✓ **Support Indigenous and rural communities**—providing green jobs, fostering land stewardship, and empowering local economies.

This legislation is **a win for taxpayers, a win for communities, and a win for the environment.** By investing in our free and natural resource -nature-based solutions, we can **revitalize the Wild West, fortify our lands against disaster, and secure a thriving future for generations to come.**

II. Problem Statement

1. **Wildfires & Climate Impact**
    - Over **40,500 acres** burned in California wildfires in 2025, causing widespread destruction to communities, wildlife, and property (*National Interagency Fire Center - Fire Statistics*).
    - Federal wildfire suppression costs have exceeded $23 billion over the past decade (*NOAA - Economic Analysis of Wildfires*).
    - Fire-prone grasslands remain unmanaged, accumulating dangerously flammable vegetation, exacerbating fire risks (*Nature Communications - Rewilding for Climate Change Mitigation*).
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2. **Land Degradation & Carbon Loss**
    - Removing natural grazers, such as wild horses, results in excessive fire fuel buildup, increasing wildfire intensity and frequency (*Ecological Applications - The Role of Wild Horses in Ecosystem Functioning*).
    - Degraded grasslands lose their ability to store carbon, accelerating climate change and soil degradation (*Follett & Reed, 2010 - Soil Carbon Sequestration in Grazing Lands*).
    - Grassland restoration efforts are delayed by the absence of natural grazing patterns that historically maintained these ecosystems (*Pires et al., 2017 - Pleistocene Megafaunal Extinctions and Seed-Dispersal Loss*).

3. **Unnecessary and Costly Government Roundups and warehousing of wild horses**
    - Over approx.**80,000 wild horses and burros** are confined in BLM holding facilities, costing taxpayers approximately **$90 million annually** (*BLM - Wild Horse and Burro Management Overview*).
    - These federally protected animals are often exported for slaughter, despite strong public opposition (*United Nations - Indigenous Peoples and Climate Change*).
    - Removing wild horses disrupts ecosystems, weakens fire resilience, and leads to increased land degradation (*National Geographic - How Horses Can Help Restoration*).

4. **Mismanagement of Public Lands & Wild Horses**
    - Current public land management policies fail to recognize wild horses as a cost-effective natural resource for reducing fire risks and restoring rangelands (*Rock Star, Nonprofit & Indigenous Voices Band Together in New Climate Resilience, Wild Land, Wild Horse Tax Saving Plan*).
    - In contrast, countries such as France, Spain, and Mongolia successfully use equine rewilding to manage fire-prone landscapes and regenerate degraded grasslands (*Rewilding Europe*).
    - The U.S. grants wild horses and burros less than 8% of public lands, where they are often forced to share space with livestock that outnumber them by 1,000 to 1 in many areas (*BLM - Wild Horse and Burro Management Overview*).
    - Assigning wild horses to designated rewilding areas—separate from domestic livestock—would enable grassland restoration in as little as five years (*Nature Communications - Rewilding for Climate Change Mitigation*).

5. **Bridging the Gap Between Ranchers and Conservation**
    - Misinformation has created conflict between ranchers and wild horse advocates, failing to recognize that with increased land allocation, wild horses do not impinge on rancher land, and can support local fire mitigation and land restoration efforts (*Smithsonian Magazine - Wild Donkeys and Horses Dig Wells That Provide Water for a Host of Desert Species*).
    - By integrating rewilding into federal land management policies, this bill fosters collaboration between stakeholders, ensuring public lands are managed for the benefit of ranchers, conservationists, Indigenous communities, and future generations (*United Nations - Indigenous Peoples and Climate Change*).

III. Proposed Solution

1. **Rewilding Wild Horses for Fire Mitigation & Grassland (Climate) Resilience**

    In two years time Relocate 80,000 government-held wild horses to fire-prone lands to naturally manage vegetation (*PLOS ONE - Grazing as a Fire Mitigation Strategy*).

    Establish 10 pilot rewilding projects across Western States (*Nature Climate Change - Trophic Rewilding Can Expand Natural Climate Solutions*).

    Partner with Indigenous communities to integrate Traditional Ecological Knowledge (TEK), who are also prepared to take responsibility for managing the pilots in all ten regions (*United Nations - Indigenous Peoples and Climate Change*).

PHASE 1 : In the first year –

- 40,000 BLM captured wild horses and burros will be rewilded to identified public, trust, tribal or private grass lands

- Ten prime grassland, including forest edge sites will be identified – in five different climatic regions -favorable for eco-horse survival. In these areas the free roaming horses will be granted exclusive for them and other wildlife prescribed wild horse and burro grazing and watering rights.

- Acquisition and readying of five sites (fencing- rain water catch installation- digging of springs- access road assurance and strengthening)

- Creation of infrastructure to support for entire ecosystem resilience and restoration.

- Establishing surrounding each site community task forces at each site and hands on boots on the ground managers.

- Horses will receive grass hay supplemental feed, and to help support expedited and natural healing for flora-fauna agro-and land restoration.

- Initial Baseline and ongoing testing, monitoring, documenting of findings and reporting findings to public.

Five year project duration at five year mark assessment is made as to needs of the horses, and ecosystem with possible consideration to move the horses to another viable site- to help and heal.

The herds will be non-reproducing as all BLM captured stallions are gelded. If the horses are joining reproducing existing free roaming horses or burros-herds will be monitored as to genetic viability- as will each land site for impact and supporting positive address..

2. **Amending the Wild Free-Roaming Horses and Burros Act**

Restore its original intent to protect wild horses as an integral part of public lands (*BLM - Wild Horse and Burro Management Overview*).

Recognize wild horses as a fire mitigation species to qualify for federal wildfire prevention funding (*National Interagency Fire Center - Fire Statistics*).

Whereas, to harm, harass or to cause death for a wild horse or burro is not in keeping with the original intent of the Free-Roaming Wild horse and Burro Protection Act of 1971- to Abolish and Repeal the Burns Amendment, to disallow the BLM or any entity, after three failed adoption attempts to sell captured wild horses and burros without authority or limitation-meaning even to “kill buyers” or for slaughter export. (according to the USDA AG export more approximately 18,000 horses and burros were trucked-shipped to Mexico in 2024. Whereas 80b % the majority of Americans are opposed to

horse slaughter and because of its barbaric and inhumane mis-treatment on route and in the slaughter process. This number excludes horse export statistics to other countries such as Canada, France and Japan. (US-Mexico Export Livestock Reports 2024 & YTD)

Recognize wild horses as a keystone species that provides trophic cascades (*Ecological Applications - The Role of Wild Horses in Ecosystem Functioning*).

.. (BLM over view estimated population March 2024)

(Additional citations included in legislative documentation.)

3. **Redirecting Taxpayer Dollars from Roundups to Rewilding**
- Phase out costly roundups and long-term holding facilities.
- Allocate funds toward land restoration and conservation jobs.

4. **Creating Jobs & Supporting Communities**
- Employ 10–50 local workers per site for land restoration (100-500 total).
- Provide scholarships for Indigenous youth to participate in rewilding studies.
- Incentivize ranchers and landowners to support wildfire prevention through ecosystem-based practices.

IV. Expected Benefits

1. Taxpayer Savings

- Eliminate approximately **$99.7 million annually** in BLM holding and management costs.
- Reduce **multi-billion-dollar** wildfire suppression costs with natural and free top loading fire fueling grasses. (@cite)
- Lower the immense financial and physical costs of wildfire-related disasters, protecting communities and infrastructure.

2. Fire & Climate Resilience

Wild horses play a crucial role in strengthening ecosystems, mitigating wildfire risks, and enhancing climate resilience through natural processes.

- **Wildfire Prevention & Grassland Restoration:** Free-roaming wild horses naturally consume fire-prone vegetation, reducing fuel loads and creating healthier, fire-resistant landscapes. Their grazing expands native grasslands, forming natural firebreaks that protect ecosystems and communities.
- **Large-Scale Natural Reseeding & Pollination:** As **North America's largest pollinating migratory grazers**, wild horses revitalize ecosystems by distributing live seeds through their movement and digestion (**endozoochory**). Acting as “America’s gigantic migrating bees,” they naturally reseed vast landscapes, restoring biodiversity and preventing desertification.

- **Carbon Sequestration & Climate Mitigation:** Restored grasslands, one of the planet's most effective carbon sinks, significantly enhance carbon storage within five years. Healthy grasslands capture CO_2, combat climate change, and provide sustainable habitats for diverse wildlife.
- **Creation of greenbelt firebreaks**: Expanding grasslands and native flora will provide natural firebreaks, making communities and ecosystems **healthier and more fire-resistant**.
- **Desertification prevention**: Wild horse manure, rich in moisture, fosters soil health and plant growth, rebuilding water retention in arid Western habitats.
- **Improve Soil Health**.
- **Water Conservation & Source Restoration:** Wild horses and burros **naturally create rainwater catchments**, dig out springs, streams and restore riverbeds, improving water access for wildlife and ecosystems. Their presence strengthens nature's irrigation system, increasing water retention and reversing aridification.
- **Strengthening Natural Resources & Biodiversity:** Through trophic cascades, wild horses contribute to thriving ecosystems by promoting plant and animal biodiversity, reinforcing soil health, and sustaining balanced food chains. Their presence supports the natural regeneration of grasslands, wetlands, and forests.-Thereby restoring **grasslands one of the planets greatest carbon sinks**.

By harnessing the ecological benefits of wild horses, we can restore and protect landscapes, reduce wildfire risks, combat climate change, and ensure long-term resilience for both wildlife and human communities.

· 3. Economic & Social Benefits

- **Job creation**: Establish new **green jobs** in wildland, wild horse, and water management across rural and tribal communities.
- **Community engagement**: Strengthen ties between landowners, Indigenous groups, ranchers, and conservationists, fostering cooperative land management.
- **Education & research**: Expand academic partnerships with **universities, colleges, and research institutions**, creating hands-on learning opportunities in land resilience and horse and agro-ecology.
- **Economic sustainability**: Recognizing wild horses as **a free, natural land resilience resource** benefits ranchers, land managers, and surrounding communities by reducing costs associated with land restoration and fire mitigation.
- **Protection of public and private assets**: Safeguard homes, businesses, and public lands from destructive wildfires.
- **Bridging stakeholder divides**: Create mutual economic and environmental benefits by **aligning ranchers, conservationists, and policymakers** toward a sustainable land-use approach.

The Saving of the last of America's living legend lives and freedom, for the Wild West to live on today, and for future generations to inherit.

- **Cultural and Indigenous resilience**: Strengthen Indigenous community leadership in land stewardship, reinforcing traditional ecological knowledge (TEK).
- **Health and well-being**: Promote **mental, spiritual, and physical wellness** through eco-tourism, wild horse observation, education and hands-on conservation opportunities.
- **Sustainable eco-tourism**: Expand **educational and tourism opportunities**, boosting local economies while promoting environmental stewardship.

· V. Legislative Action Requested

1. Reallocate $55.5 million for FY25 to fund 10 pilot wild horse rewilding State *needed size per pilot model.*
2. Amend the Free-Roaming Wild Horse and Burro Act of 1971 to recognize wild horses as a fire-mitigation species and "an integral part of the natural Western habitat," granting the approximately 43,000 remaining free roaming wild horses and burros on 245 million acres of public lands the right to remain free (*BLM - Wild Horse and Burro Management Overview*). The last of America's free-roaming wild horses and burros on public and state-managed lands should be designated their own grazing areas, shared only with wildlife (*Nature Communications - Rewilding for Climate Change Mitigation*). Livestock will be assigned separate grazing areas, free of wild horses and burros, with consideration for rotating eco-horses to benefit flora, fauna, biodiversity, and the land's overall survival (*Smithsonian Magazine - Wild Donkeys and Horses Dig Wells That Provide Water for a Host of Desert Species*).
3. Establish federal partnerships with Indigenous tribes, nonprofits, and landowners for ecosystem-based wildfire prevention.
4. Introduce legislation prioritizing rewilding over roundups to reduce taxpayer burden and protect public and Western lands.

5. Far-Reaching Vision for the Future of Wild Horses and Public Lands. Our vision seeks to enhance the management of wild horses and burros, allowing them to thrive alongside the public lands they inhabit. Over the next decade, we will work to restore wild horse herds to genetic viability while revitalizing and sustaining our public land ecosystems. This endeavor transcends the welfare of the horses—it encompasses the health of our ecosystems and the well-being of all stakeholders, including the safety and benefits of surrounding communities.

Our goal is to gradually increase the land allocated to these magnificent creatures from a mere 8% to an ambitious 20%, granting them access to roam freely across 49,000,253 acres of our 245 million acres of public lands. Currently, wild horses are confined to a fraction of their rightful habitat, sharing it with approximately 6 million domestic cattle and sheep. This overcrowding has led to overgrazing and ecological degradation.

By separating wild horses from domestic livestock, we can and will heal our grassland habitats, restore biodiversity, and rejuvenate the health of our soils. This transformation will not only benefit wild horses and burros but also the diverse flora and fauna that depend on these ecosystems, ensuring a harmonious balance for all stakeholders. Together, we can envision seas of green expanding beyond fence lines and creating a brighter future for our public lands and the creatures that call them home.

(BLM Overview Estimated Population March 2024)

VI. Funding Allocation Total Requested: $55,500,000 Per-State Study Cost: $5,500,000 (for 10 sites)

- **Land restoration:** Fencing, water infrastructure, native plant seeding.
- **Wild horse care & reintroduction:** Herd management, veterinary support, supplemental feeding.
- **Job creation:** Hiring land stewards, Indigenous workers, and youth trainees.

· **Research & monitoring:** Climate impact studies and wildfire reduction analysis.

VII. Scientific & Indigenous Support

· **Nature Climate Change (2023):** "Trophic rewilding can expand natural climate solutions."
· **United Nations (2021):** "Restoration is key to meeting climate targets."
· **Oglala-Lakota Chief Lee Plenty Wolf:** *"We need to put the government imprisoned wild horses back on the land, so they can once again heal and protect the land-and we need to do this right away, because the horses can help us prevent wildfires and the damaging effects of climate change."*

· **Shoshone Tribal Members Bobbi Shongutsie - Wyoming Project Lead, Agro-Ecology Land Restoration Design & Ago Testing Certified, and Austin J. Hill:** LWHF Land Revitalization partners.
· **Dr. Cintra Agee & Prof. of Native American and Environmental Studies (Yale Alumni):** Environmental science expert
Collaborate with University faculty and under-grad students- programs.

VIII. Global Equine Rewilding Precedents

· **France-Germany-Switzerland:** Horses reintroduced to restore biodiversity and manage vegetation.
· **Ukraine:** Konik horses boosting biodiversity in the Danube Delta.
· **United Kingdom:** Exmoor, Kent, and Devon rewilding projects.
· **Mongolia:** Successful rewilding of Przewalski's horses to restore ecological balance.
· **Spain:** Wild horses reintroduced to control underbrush and prevent wildfires.

IX. Call to Action We urge Congress to introduce and support the **Wild West Wildfire, Climate, and Tax Saving – Wild Horse and Burro Land Revitalization Act of 2025** to: Reduce wildfire risks & costs Cut taxpayer waste on failed horse roundups Restore ecosystems & improve climate resilience Create jobs & empower Indigenous communities

Above Photo : **Larger Scale Vision based Upon- successful LWHF five year Climate & Wildfire Land Revitalization Proven Model, Pilot Project**, in **just two year's trophic cascade effect positive transformation** in growth in this 500 acres of baseline start- depleted soils and habitat overgrazed by cattle- now in Northern Nevada ecosystem's water presence, and flora and fauna biodiversity, serve as a positive model for this exciting legislation.**Typically overgrazed land by cattle takes and if revitalization is possible-up to 10+ years to naturally restore- with the presence of free roaming eco horses depleted land restoration time is phenomenally expedited** -

> **Soils and grasslands sequester large amounts of carbon. We are launching controlled studies to quantify how much. One of LWHF's missions is to reduce the need for government spending on not only BLM management of wild horses, but also management costs on both public and private lands.**

REFERENCE LINKS:

Support Press Articles:

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https://www.doi.gov/sites/default/files/documents/2024-03/fy2025-508-bib-blm.pdf
BLM Wild Horse & Burro Program costs: $170,914,000. in FY 2025

https://apnews.com/press-release/ein-presswire-newsmatics/science-california-united-states-horses-congress-bcc27c0fb3b9410c3b2eb1101b4b5b86

https://politics.einnews.com/pr_news/569756372/a-wild-horse-and-earth-healing-study-begins-in-nevada

_https://www.ams.usda.gov/mnreports/ams_3629.pdf

.https://fox40.com/business/press-releases/ein-presswire/603476987/calling-on-angels-to-join-a-rock-star-lakota-chief-and-nonprofits-to-win-the-race-to-save-the-wild-horses/

https://www.usnationaltimes.com/article/548241235-wild-horses-a-natural-resource-for-staving-off-wildfires-and-the-impacts-of-global-warming

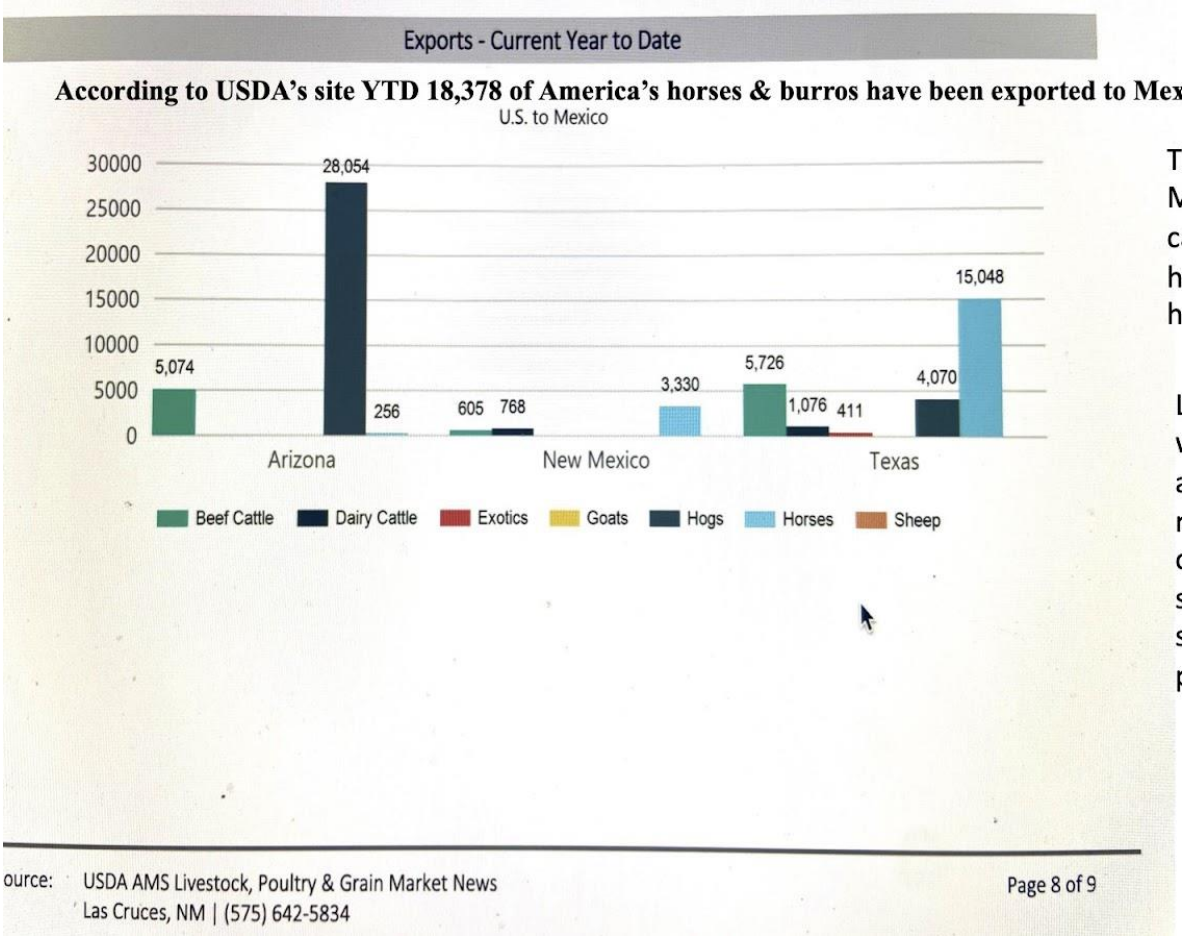
https://news.un.org/en/story/2021/06/1093272

https://pure.knaw.nl/ws/portalfiles/portal/897665709/Schmitz_et_al_2023_AAM.pdf

https://www.axios.com/local/portland/2023/08/14/cost-of-wildfires-oregon-climate-change

"United States of America in Congress assembled., That Congress finds and declares that wild free-roaming horses and burros are living symbols of the historic and pioneer spirit of the West; that they contribute to the diversity of life forms within the Nation and enrich the lives of
the American people; and that these horses and burros are fast dis-
appearing from the American scene. I t is the policy of Congress that
wild free-roaming horses and burros shall be protected from capture,
branding, harassment, or death; and to accomplish this they are to be
considered in the area where presently found, as an integral part of
the natural system of the public lands."
https://www.govtrack.us/congress/bills/92/s1116/text
…"tens of thousands of American equines continue to be shipped to slaughter across our borders annually. In 2024, 19,000 horses were trucked over our borders to slaughter facilities in Mexico and Canada." ASPCA

https://www.ams.usda.gov/mnreports/ams_3629.pdf



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According to BLM population estimates in 2024 approximately 52,000 free roaming wild horses and burros remain on Americans 245,000,000 acres of Americas's public rangelands. Whereas the BLM there after removed approx. 21,000 horses and burros- https://www.blm.gov/programs/wild-horse-and-burro/about-the-program/program-data

11.https://www.aspca.org/improving-laws-animals/public-policy/horse-slaughter#:~:text=Horse%20Slaughter%20Abroad,facilities%20in%20Mexico%20and%20Canada.

12.https://www.animalsangels.org/investigations/horses/state-horse-slaughter-industry-annual-update-2025

In 2024, the total number of US horses shipped across the southern border into Mexico decreased by a total of 789 horses -falling from 17,997 horses shipped in 2023 to 17,208 shipped in 2024.

The following come from United Nations on Climate Change & Wildfires
https://www.un.org/en/un-chronicle/wildfires-increase-integrated-strategies-forests-climate-and-sustainability-are-ever-0
Mitigating climate change and adapting to extreme wildfires must be tackled simultaneously. It is important to include sustainable land use, sustainable forest management and fire management in national sustainable development plans, as well as in strategies on climate change adaptation and mitigation, and biodiversity conservation

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Wild Horse and Burro Management Overview
- Bureau of Land Management (BLM) - Wild Horse and Burro Program
https://www.blm.gov/programs/wild-horse-and-burro
- Description: Overview of the BLM's management of wild horses and burros, including current statistics and policies.

“PEER (Public Employees for Environmental Responsibility) has created an interactive map, "BLM Rangeland Health Status (2024)", that analyzes BLM data on grazing allotments and their impact on rangeland health, revealing that livestock grazing is a significant factor in land health failures. “

https://peer.org/areas-of-work/public-lands/grazing-reform/mapping-rangeland-health/#:~:text=PEER%20plotted%20the%20data%20from,National%20Environmental%20Policy%20Act%20review.

Wildfire Costs and Impact
- National Interagency Fire Center - Fire Statistics
30. https://www.nifc.gov/fire-information/nfn
- Description: Information on wildfire statistics, including acreage burned and suppression costs in the United States.

. Ecological Benefits of Grazing
- ScienceDirect - The Role of Grazing in Ecosystem Services
https://www.sciencedirect.com/science/article/pii/S0006320719302229
- Description: A study discussing how grazing animals can contribute positively to ecosystem services and land management.

Wild Horse Rewilding Initiatives
- National Geographic - The Role of Horses in Ecosystem Restoration
https://www.nationalgeographic.com/animals/article/how-horses-can-help-restoration - Description: An article exploring how rewilding horses can help restore degraded landscapes.

Indigenous Knowledge in Ecological Management
- United Nations - Indigenous Peoples and Climate Change
https://www.un.org/development/desa/indigenouspeoples/publications.html
- Description: Publications from the UN highlighting the importance of Indigenous knowledge in climate change and ecosystem management.

Wild Horse Adoption and Management
- Wild Horse Adoption and Care - BLM
https://www.blm.gov/programs/wild-horse-and-burro/adoption
- Description: Information on the adoption program for wild horses and burros managed by the BLM.

Fire Mitigation Strategies
- U.S. Forest Service - Fire Mitigation and Management
https://www.fs.usda.gov/managing-land/fire
- Description: Overview of fire management strategies, including prevention and mitigation efforts.

Global Rewilding Examples

ReWilding with wild Horses:

> “As ecosystem engineers, horses create beneficial changes through their physical actions. In the winter horses break ice with their hooves, allowing other species access to water, and in the summer dig to create small water catchments, creating intermittent riparian habitat for desert species. Large-scale herd movements in deep snow may also reduce snow insulation in northern landscapes, leading to an increase in permafrost freezing, potentially mitigating methane loss and woody plant encroachment. Horse’s unique single-unit or ***soliped*** hooves can loosen topsoil as they move across the landscape in high-intensity short-duration grazing bouts. This nomadic soil loosening, combined with their moisture-rich dung, can increase carbon sequestration in soils and promote nutrient cycling.Wild horses have other interesting effects on the ecosystems they inhabit simply by existing within them; by trampling certain vegetation and wallowing near water mustangs can create microhabitats and redistribute nutrients through seed dispersal. Plant species richness and pollinator populations have been found to be higher in areas grazed by horses compared to ungrazed areas and can even mitigate the decline of pollinator-dependent plants. Horse feces, in addition to spreading seeds, builds the humus layer of soils and increases soil’s absorption of water, lowering wildfire risk. These characteristics are unique to horse feces compared with ruminants such as cattle, sheep, goats, or deer. Wild horses in the United States have also been shown to commonly graze on invasive cheatgrass. - ReWilding Earth
> https://rewilding.org/rewilding-with-wild-horses/

France
https://thehorse.com/1110828/feral-horses-play-important-role-in-french-rewilding-project/
https://onlinelibrary.wiley.com/doi/10.1111/brv.13146
“Horses (Equus ferus) represent an important species for nature conservation managers. Specifically, in rewilding initiatives with the main goal
of rebuilding self-sustaining complex ecosystems, horses can contribute to restoring diversified herbivory processes to the benefit of ecosystem
functioning and biodiversity (Svenning, Buitenwerf & Le Roux, 2024). In this context, horses hold particular importance (Linnartz, Meissner &
Lemoine, 2023) as they are highly adaptive to a wide range of environmental conditions (Waring, 1983; Naundrup & Svenning, 2015). They are
also remarkably efficient in shaping floristic diversity (Chodkiewicz, 2020, Garrido et al., 2019), enhancing faunal richness and abundance
(Garrido et al., 2022; Köhler, Hiller & Tischew, 2016; Lovász, Korner-Nievergelt & Amrhein, 2024), and regulating vegetation succession
(Cornelissen, 2017). Horses were widespread during the Middle and Late Pleistocene, with a distribution that covered most of Eurasia,
northern Africa and the Americas (Naundrup & Svenning, 2015). They coevolved with the highly varied vegetation types in Europe and
elsewhere (e.g. Boulbes & van Asperen, 2019), and thus represent an obvious species to integrate into rewilding efforts aiming to restore a
functional, diversified herbivory regime (Naundrup & Svenning, 2015; Svenning et al., 2024). Importantly, Holocene and Pleistocene horse
populations in Europe showed the same tendency to consume poor-quality, high-fibre vegetation (e.g. Sala et al., 2024; Kveiborg et al., 2024)
seen in extant feral and near-naturally kept domestic horses in natural areas in Europe (e.g. Moinardeau et al., 2021; Chodkiewicz, 2020). Thismakes them particularly important for limiting dominance by coarse grasses and other high-productivity vegetation, a widespread problem in
European natural areas (Timmermann et al., 2015; Wesche et al., 2012).”

“The herd of nine Konik horses lives free of human intervention on a small island in eastern France. | Courtesy Lilla Lovász What was once a massive cornfield at the French -German border has become a haven of biodiversity and a green energy site, following a rewilding effort that’s now home to a wide variety of plants and animals—including a herd of rustic horses that has been imported to help maintain the terrain. For more than three years Polish Konik horses have been controlling tree growth on a small island in the middle of the Rhine River, said Lilla Lovász, a PhD candidate at the University of Basel, just a few miles south of the reserve in neighboring Switzerland.”

Ukraine
https://rewildingeurope.com/tag/rewilding-horses-in-europe/“Natural grazing in the Ukrainian Danube Delta boosted by arrival of Konik horses
March 27, 2019 | News Representing the first ever translocation of Konik horses into the Danube Delta, the shipment of 23 animals travelled
by road from Latvia to the Ukrainian village of Orlovka. By helping to create and maintain mosaic landscapes, their grazing will help to boost
biodiversity in the Danube Delta rewilding area.” - Rewilding Europe - Rewilding Projects
https://rewildingeurope.com/ - Description: Information and case studies on rewilding projects across Europe, including the use of horses for ecosystem restoration.

Mongolia is rewilding horses through reintroduction projects, which aim to increase the population and genetic diversity of wild horses in the country.
https://www.theguardian.com/environment/2024/jan/11/wildlife-is-in-crisis-mongolias-struggle-to-restore-species-on-the-brink-aoe#:~:text=Known%20to%20Mongolians%20as%20takhi,them%20back%2C”%20Dashpurev%20says

More Wild Horse Reintroduction projects

Takhin Tal A reintroduction station for takhi, or Przewalski's horses, established in 1990 in the Gobi B Nature Reserve.
• Khomyn Tal Reserve A reintroduction site for Przewalski's horses that has seen a population increase to over 100 by 2020.
• Hustai National Park A reintroduction site for Przewalski's horses that has seen a population increase to nearly 1,000.
• Organizations involved• Association pour la sauvegarde du cheval de Przewalski (TAKH)
A French NGO that supports the reintroduction of Przewalski's horses to Mongolia.
• Prague Zoo An organization that transports captive-bred Przewalski's horses to Mongolia through its Return of the Wild Horses project.
• Minnesota Zoo An organization that partners with the Smithsonian Conservation Biology Institute and Hustai National Park to help Asian wild horses.

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"Horses (Equus ferus) represent an important species for nature conservation managers. Specifically, in rewilding initiatives with the main goal of rebuilding self-sustaining complex ecosystems, horses can contribute to restoring diversified herbivory processes to the benefit of ecosystem functioning and biodiversity (Svenning, Buitenwerf & Le Roux, 2024). In this context, horses hold particular importance (Linnartz, Meissner & Lemoine, 2023) as they are highly adaptive to a wide range of environmental conditions (Waring, 1983; Naundrup & Svenning, 2015). They are also remarkably efficient in shaping floristic diversity (Chodkiewicz, 2020, Garrido et al ., 2019), enhancing faunal richness and abundance (Garrido et al ., 2022; Köhler, Hiller & Tischew, 2016; Lovász, Korner-Nievergelt & Amrhein, 2024), and regulating vegetation succession (Cornelissen, 2017). Horses were widespread during the Middle and Late Pleistocene, with a distribution that covered most of Eurasia, northern Africa and the Americas (Naundrup & Svenning, 2015). They coevolved with the highly varied vegetation types in Europe and elsewhere (e.g. Boulbes & van Asperen, 2019), and thus represent an obvious species to integrate into rewilding efforts aiming to restore a functional, diversified herbivory regime (Naundrup & Svenning, 2015; Svenning et al ., 2024). Importantly, Holocene and Pleistocene horse populations in Europe showed the same tendency to consume poor-quality, high-fibre vegetation (e.g. Sala et al ., 2024; Kveiborg et al ., 2024) seen in extant feral and near-naturally kept domestic horses in natural areas in Europe (e.g. Moinardeau et al ., 2021; Chodkiewicz, 2020). **This makes them particularly important for limiting dominance by coarse grasses and other high-productivity vegetation, a widespread problem** in European natural areas (Timmermann et al ., 2015; Wesche et al ., 2012)."

Iberia
https://www.theguardian.com/world/2023/jul/07/iberian-rewilding-project-aims-repopulate-empty-spain
10 Przewalski wild horses released
https://www.endangeredlandscapes.org/news/przewalskis-horses-to-roam-free-in-the-iberian-highlands/
16 Przewalski released
ReWilding Europe

Spain
https://www.npr.org/sections/parallels/2014/01/08/260777584/after-2-000-years-wild-horses-again-roam-western-spain
• 40 wild horses released in Spain "The first thing to come back is the underbrush, which used to be grazed by livestock but now grows unchecked — and fuels increasingly dangerous wildfires growing in number and acreage in recent years.
• "In the last 40 years, the bush has increased by more than 4 million hectares. That's nearly 10 percent of the country converted to

bushland, because we lost the human population — they went to the city," said Benigno Varillas, president of a subsidiary group, Rewilding
Spain. "To control the bush, you need big animals — herbivores — to trample and graze. People have taken their horses and cows away. So this
reintroduction [of wild horses] is very important."

United Kingdom
Wild horses have been reintroduced to the UK as part of rewilding efforts, which aim to restore the ecological role of wild horses in the landscape.
How it works : Select breeds
Conservationists choose breeds that share traits with the original European wild horse. These breeds include the Exmoor pony, the Yakutian horse, and the Pottok. “Where it's happening
Exmoor: Semi-wild herds of Exmoor ponies live on Exmoor in the UK. New Forest: Semi-wild herds of horses live in the New Forest in the UK. Kent: Wild horses have been reintroduced to marshes near Faversham in Kent. Sharpham Estate: Konik ponies have been introduced to the Sharpham Estate in Devon to help with rewilding.

“Benefits Rewilding wild horses helps restore the ecological role of wild horses in the landscape. Wild horses help maintain plant diversity and create wetlands that provide a home for other wildlife. Wild horses help prevent scrub from growing over and turning into woodland. “

WILD HORSES IN THE UK (their ‘mustangs’) help RESTORE wetlands through ReWilding!
https://www.horseandman.com/horse-stories/wild-horses-in-the-uk-help-restore-wetlands-through-rewilding/06/24/2018/

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https://www.theguardian.com/environment/2024/jan/11/wildlife-is-in-crisis-mongolias-struggle-to-restore-species-on-the-brink-aoe#:~:text=Known%20to%20Mongolians%20as%20takhi,them%20back%2C”%20Dashpurev%20says

Climate Change and Ecosystem Restoration
Nature Climate Change - Ecosystem Restoration and Climate Targets 37.
https://www.nature.com/nclimate/
Description: Articles related to the role of ecosystem restoration in achieving climate change mitigation goals.

. Economic Impact of Wildfire Management
National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA) - Economic Analysis of Wildfires
https://www.ncdc.noaa.gov/billions/
Description: Analysis of the economic impact of natural disasters, including wildfires, in the United States.

Media: **Rock Star, Nonprofit & Indigenous Voices band together in New Climate Resilience, Wild Land, Wild Horse Tax Saving Plan**
Rock Star, Nonprofit & Indigenous Voices band together in New Climate Resilience, Wild Land, Wild Horse Tax Saving Plan

We request a Congressional hearing with relevant committees to discuss this urgent and exciting solution.

For further details, please contact:

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