

# Wild Horse and Burro Update



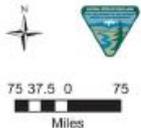
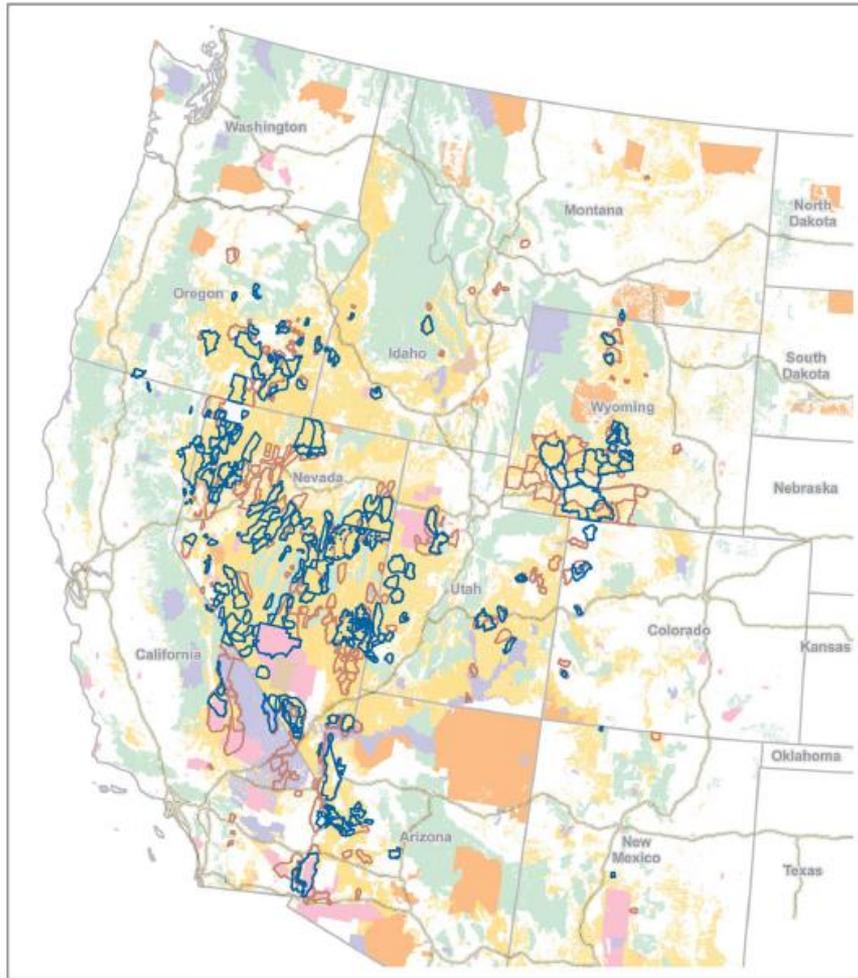
Nevada Board of Wildlife Commissioners

August 13, 2016

Reno, Nevada

Alan Jenne, Habitat Division Administrator

# Herd Areas and Herd Management Areas



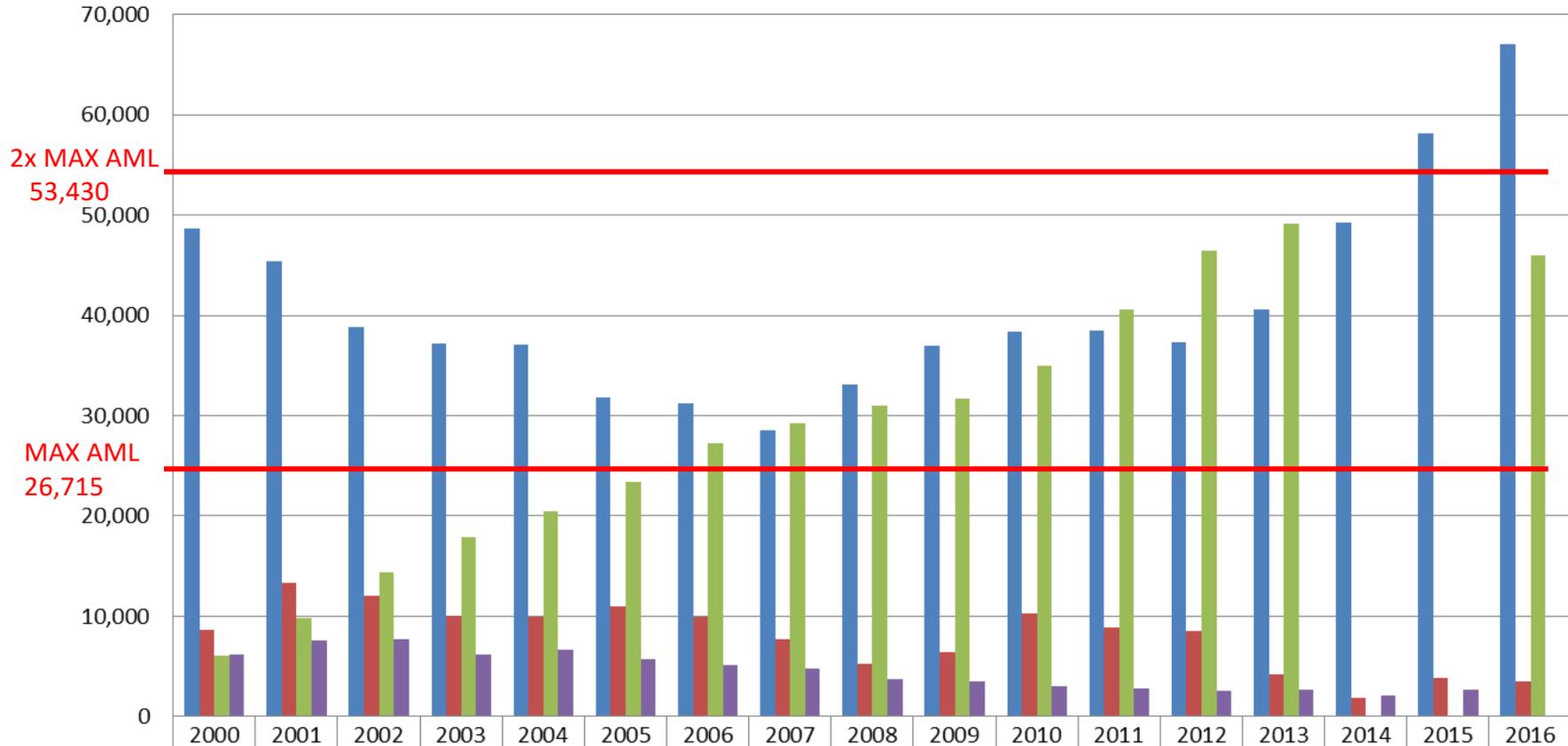
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July 27, 2011

# Distribution

State	HMAs	HAs	Pop	Max AML
Arizona	7	11	5,635	1,676
California	21	38	8,316	2,200
Colorado	4	8	1,530	812
Idaho	6	9	468	617
Montana	1	7	160	120
Nevada	85	159	34,531	12,811
New Mexico	2	4	171	83
Oregon	18	38	3,841	2,715
Utah	19	29	5,840	1,956
Wyoming	16	44	6,535	3,725
<b>Total</b>	<b>179</b>	<b>347</b>	<b>67,027</b>	<b>26,715</b>

# Historical On-Range, Off-Range, Removal and Adoption Numbers

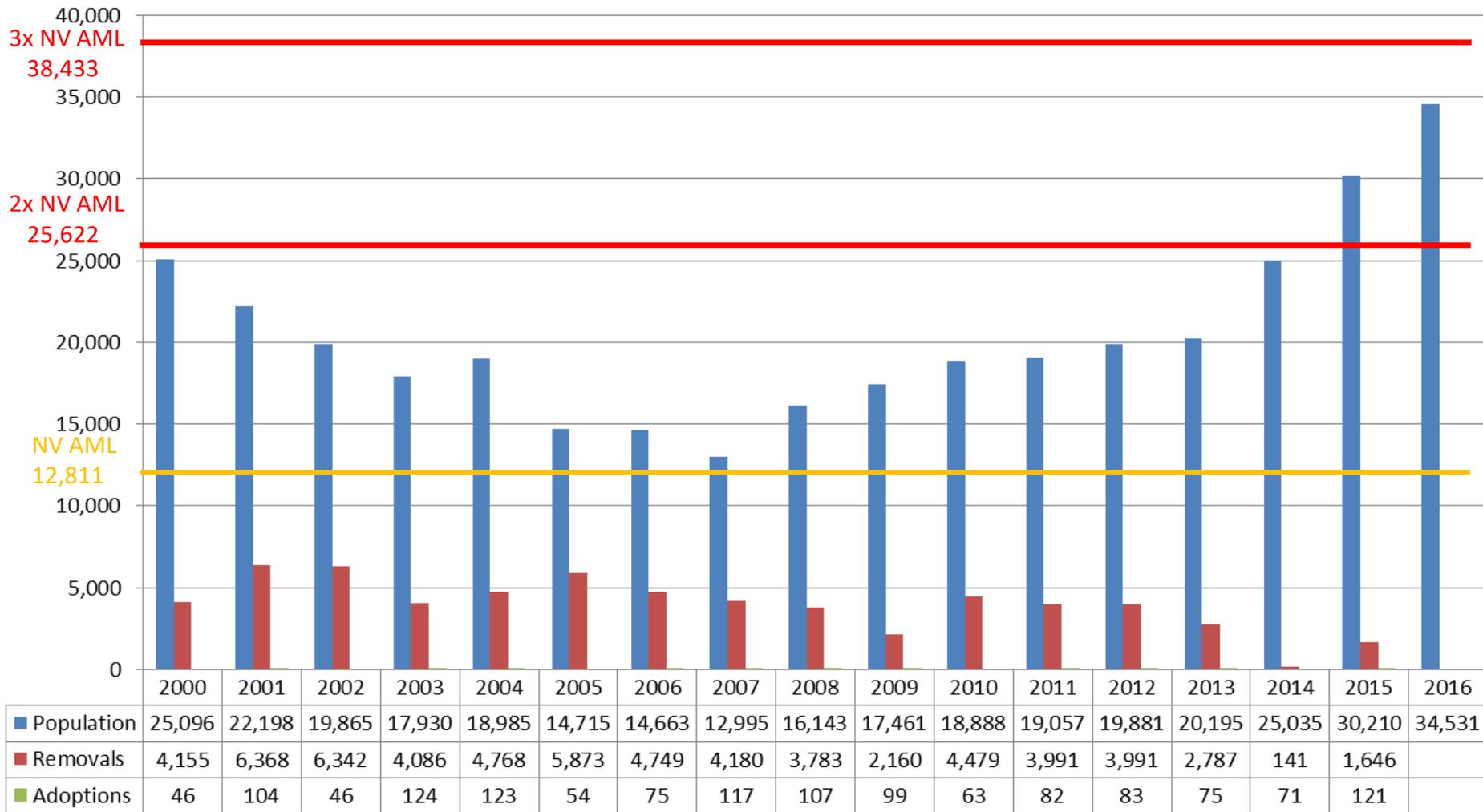


	2000	2001	2002	2003	2004	2005	2006	2007	2008	2009	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016
■ On Range Population	48,624	45,414	38,815	37,186	37,135	31,760	31,206	28,563	33,105	36,940	38,365	38,497	37,294	40,605	49,209	58,150	67,027
■ Animals Removed	8,631	13,277	12,029	10,081	9,899	11,023	9,926	7,726	5,275	6,413	10,255	8,877	8,522	4,178	1,857	3,819	3,500
■ Off-Range Population	6,086	9,807	14,368	17,879	20,474	23,337	27,195	29,247	31,048	31,639	34,979	40,589	46,429	49,088			46,000
■ Animals Adopted	6,192	7,630	7,746	6,165	6,644	5,701	5,172	4,772	3,706	3,474	3,074	2,844	2,583	2,671	2,135	2,631	

# Nevada Wild Horse Experience



# Historical Nevada WHB Population, Removals and Adoptions



27	HMA's 100-200% AML	17	Within AML
11	HMA's with 200-300% AML	1061	WHB in 8 HMA's with 0 AML
4	HMA's 300-400%	3520	WHB in 28 HA's
22	HMA's 400-2188%		

# Declining Gathers



- Nationally only 1,863 removed in 2014 and 3,819 in 2015
- 2016 only has plans to remove 3,500
- Downward trend since 2010 (10,255)
- Nevada gathers 141 in 2014 and 1,646 in 2015

# Nevada Gathers

- Ely District is planning to gather and remove up to 130 excess wild horses from Triple B HMA due to limited water availability. AML is 250-518 wild horses with current population of 1,600 wild horses.
- The Southern Nevada District is gathering approximately 40 burros in Spring Mountain Ranch State Park utilizing a bait and water trap method. The burros are being gathered because they pose safety hazards on the park's roadways and are damaging the park's restoration efforts.
- Blue Wing - There are currently an estimated 1,733 wild horses and 704 wild burros in the Blue Wing Complex based on an aerial population count conducted in December 2014, including the 2015 foal crop (20% reproduction rate for horses, 13% reproduction rate for burros). AML ranges for the Blue Wing Complex are 333-553 wild horses and 55-90 wild burros
- Pine Nuts - In April 2016, the BLM conducted an inventory of the Pine Nut Mountains and observed 536 wild horses. The appropriate management level for the HMA is 119 to 179 animals.

# Declining Adoptions



- Adoptions have been falling since 2004 (6,644)
- Only 2,173 Adopted in 2014 & 2,631 in 2015
- Nevada adoptions since 2000 = 1,400 animals (avg. 87/yr. - 46 to 124)

# Program Budget

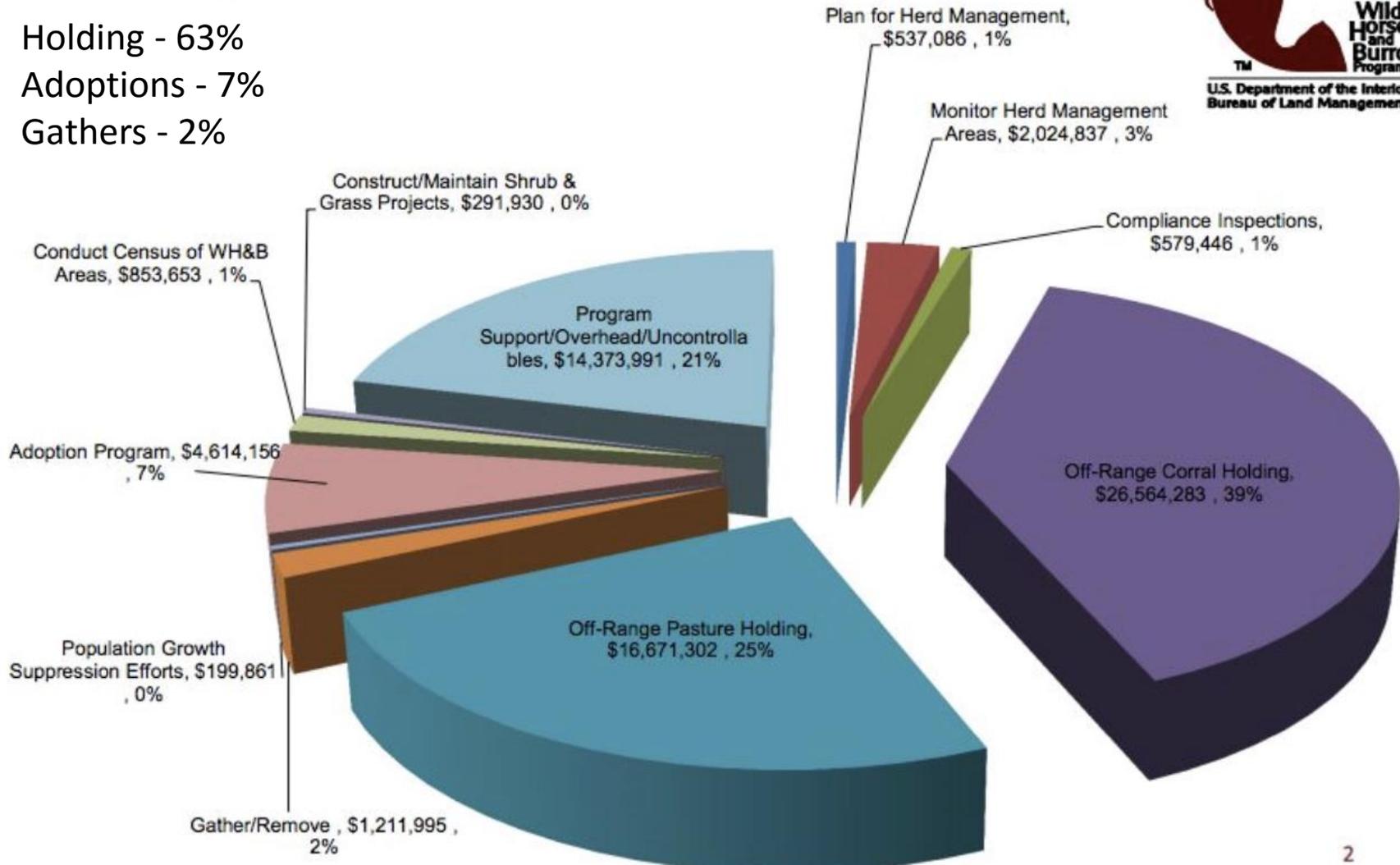
**FY 2014 Expenditures \$67,922,540**

Enacted \$77,245,000

Holding - 63%

Adoptions - 7%

Gathers - 2%



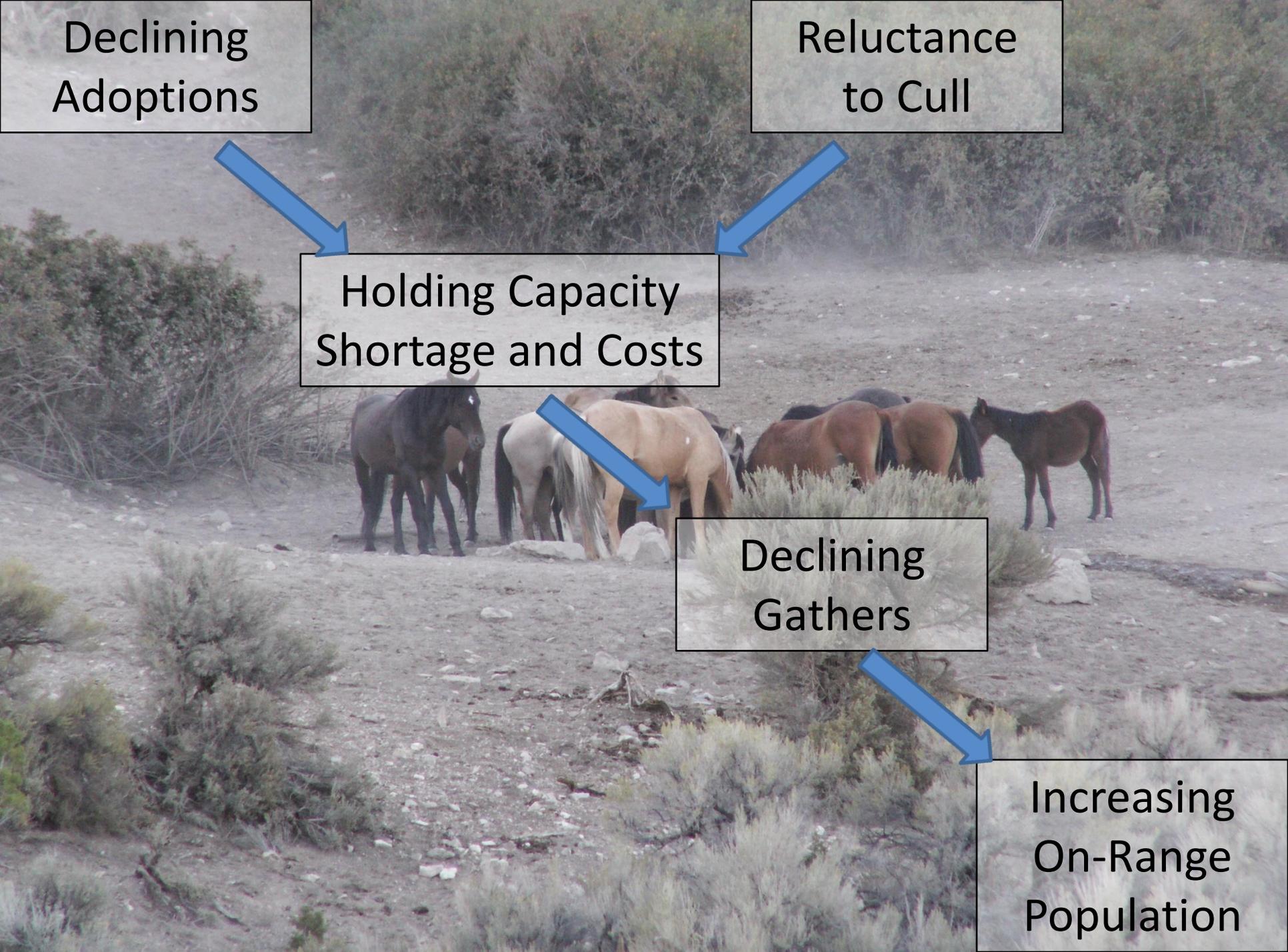
Declining  
Adoptions

Reluctance  
to Cull

Holding Capacity  
Shortage and Costs

Declining  
Gathers

Increasing  
On-Range  
Population



# Competition for Resources



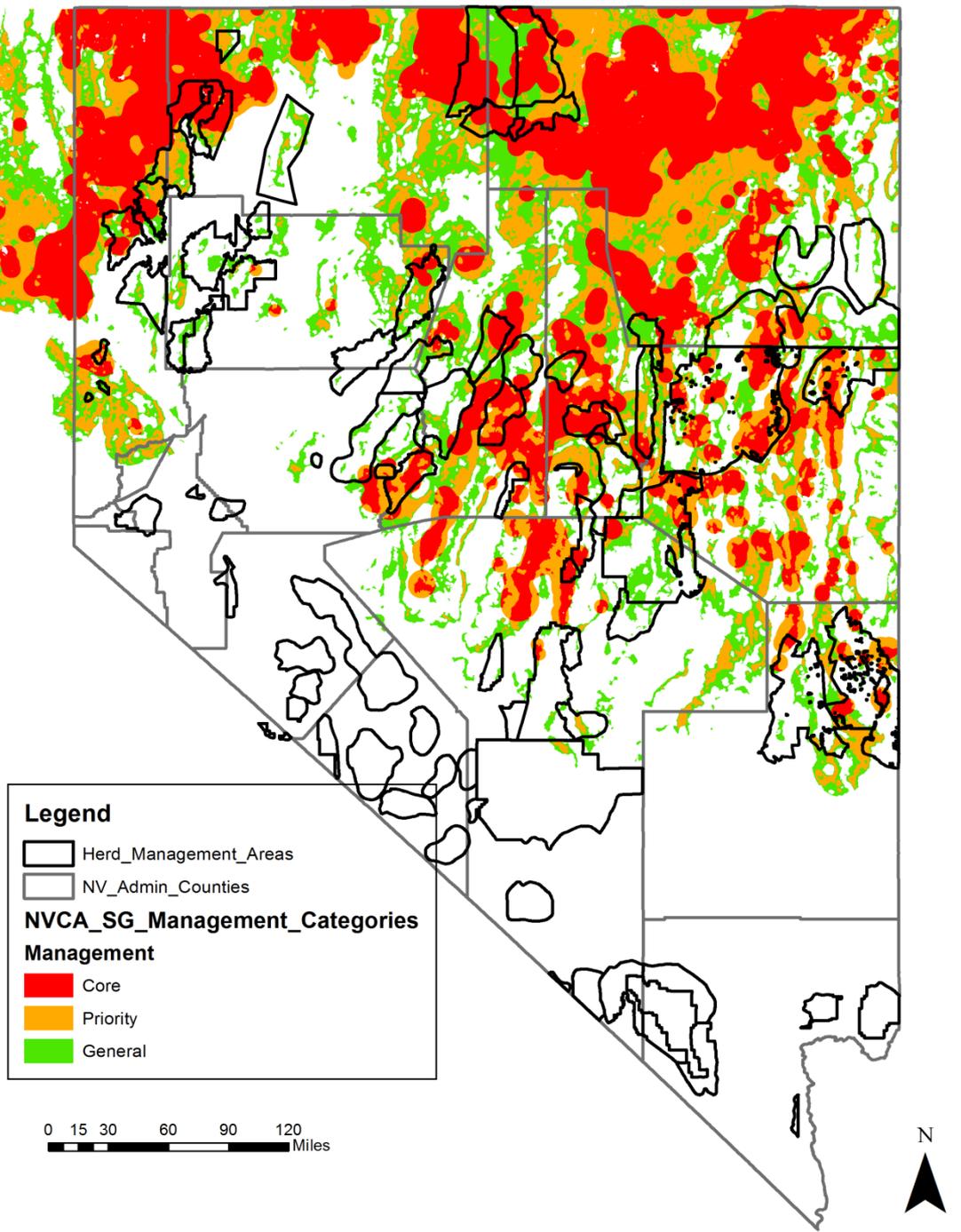
# Degradation of Habitats



# Declining Herd Health



# Conflicting Management Priorities



# Lawsuits

- Nevada Association of Counties and Nevada Farm Bureau Federation
  - Gather all excess animals above AML in and out of Nevada HMAs
  - Cease long term warehousing and auction sell and dispose of animals
  - Cease interference with Nevada water rights
- US District Judge Miranda Du said in a nine-page opinion dismissing the lawsuit that it was an unsubstantiated, broad attack on the Bureau of Land Management's overall wild horse policy effective in 10 western states. She said the suit lacks specifics needed to order BLM to round up more horses and get rid of the ones the agency says it already has gathered in compliance with the Wild Free-Roaming Horses and Burros Act.

# Questions?

