

SENATE JOINT RESOLUTION NO. 3—  
COMMITTEE ON NATURAL RESOURCES

FEBRUARY 25, 2021

Referred to Committee on Natural Resources

SUMMARY—Urges Congress to provide funding to reduce the  
wild horse and burro populations to appropriate  
management levels. (BDR R-465)

FISCAL NOTE: Effect on Local Government: No.  
Effect on the State: No.

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EXPLANATION – Matter in *bolded italics* is new; matter between brackets \_\_\_\_\_ [omitted material]  
is material to be omitted.

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SENATE JOINT RESOLUTION—Urging Congress to provide  
funding to reduce the wild horse and burro populations to  
appropriate management levels.

1 WHEREAS, The Wild Free-Roaming Horses and Burros Act of  
2 1971, as amended, ensured free-roaming horses and burros existing  
3 on lands managed by the Bureau of Land Management or U.S.  
4 Forest Service in 1971 would be protected and managed as valued  
5 components of our public lands; and

6 WHEREAS, Their range was to be sufficient to sustain herds,  
7 while ensuring a thriving natural ecological balance with wildlife,  
8 livestock and other public lands uses in accordance with the  
9 Multiple-Use Sustained-Yield Act of 1960; and

10 WHEREAS, The Wild Free-Roaming Horses and Burros Act of  
11 1971 directed the Bureau of Land Management and the U.S. Forest  
12 Service to determine, in consultation with wildlife agencies, the  
13 appropriate management level of free-roaming horses and burros to  
14 retain a thriving natural ecological balance of the habitat, forage and  
15 water needs of wildlife, livestock and free-roaming horses and  
16 burros through the assessment of plant and riparian sustainability;  
17 and

18 WHEREAS, Once over the appropriate management level,  
19 numbers of free-roaming horses and burros were defined as excess

20 to the carrying capacity of the land; and



43 that are above the appropriate — management level of the last  
44 4  
45 decades have, in many areas, impacted ecosystem health as well as  
habitat, forage and water resources, which imperils the health and

1 well-being of wildlife, livestock, vegetation, and  
free-roaming

2 horses and burros themselves; and

3 WHEREAS, Inadequate, short-term congressional Bureau of Land  
4 Management budget allocations have prevented the effective  
5 removal of excess free-roaming horses and burros required for  
6 healthy ecosystems and resulted in additional problems including  
7 insufficient pasture and holding facilities, an absence of logistically  
8 effective long-term fertility inhibitors, and populations above the  
9 appropriate management level that are growing exponentially; and

10 WHEREAS, In 2019, wildlife and livestock welfare organizations  
11 including the Humane Society of the United States and the  
12 American Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals  
13 collaboratively crafted a plan, “The Path Forward for Management  
14 of BLM’s Wild Horses & Burros,” proposing a pathway to reduce  
15 free-roaming horse and burro populations to the appropriate  
16 management level using non-lethal methods; and

17 WHEREAS, The underpinnings of this plan became part of the  
18 Bureau of Land Management’s 2020 “Report to Congress: An  
19 Analysis of Achieving a Sustainable Wild Horse & Burro Program,”  
20 which hinged on requiring sufficient short and longer-term funding  
21 for success; and

22 WHEREAS, The work of “Wild Horse Annie” (Velma Johnston),  
23 which assisted in the passage of the Wild and Free-Roaming Wild  
24 Horse and Burro Act of 1971, is failing to achieve the goals which  
25 were made in good faith of ensuring a place for free-roaming horses  
26 and burros on public lands, while retaining a thriving natural  
27 ecological balance; and

28 WHEREAS, This thriving natural ecological balance needs to be  
29 restored as quickly as possible; now, therefore, be it

30 RESOLVED BY THE SENATE AND ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF  
31 NEVADA, JOINTLY, That the members of the 81st Session of the  
32 Nevada Legislature support the humane and science-based  
management of Nevada’s wild free-roaming horse and burro  
populations Bureau of Land Management’s 2020

~~33 Report to Congress urging sufficient short term funding for  
34 immediate effectiveness and longer term funding for sustained  
35 efficacy and overall success, apportioned according to free-roaming  
36 horses and burros numbers in each state; and be it further~~

37 RESOLVED, That given the impacts of excess free-roaming  
38 horses and burros on our fragile Great Basin and Mojave  
39 ecosystems, the members of the 81st Session of the Nevada  
40 Legislature support reducing excess free-roaming horses and burros

41 to achieve the appropriate management level, using  
non-lethal  
42 means and prioritizing humane fertility control, as recommended by  
the National Academy of Sciences within 6 years to protect and  
43 restore the health and viability  
of our public lands and habitats for wildlife, free-roaming horses  
44 and burros and other uses into the future; and be it further

