

Senate Agriculture & Natural Resources

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HB24-1032 Extend Wild Horse Population Management Timeline

Typed Text of Testimony Submitted

Name, Position, Representing	Typed Text of Testimony
Karen Kalavity For themselves	<p>Our wild horse populations need to be protected, not destroyed. Horses have a right to exist without being forced from their native habitat by ranchers anxious to use their habitat for cattle, sheep, or even fracking.</p> <p>Wild horses are being taken out for "adoption", when it is their right to live in the wild without a direct "human use". As well, horses have a right to exist without being sent to slaughter in Canada and Mexico to be sold for human consumption, or dog food. It is my conjecture that a recent outbreak of respiratory disease in dogs, might well be traced back to the group of horses who experienced equine flu while being detained at the prison grounds, making many of the surrounding horses unadoptable, but highly likely to have been sent "down south" for dog food. Dog food production from horses is very common and it may very possible that horses subject to the equine flu ended up in the dog food production line. Viruses can withstand many extreme processes that would kill other "organisms" but can be "re-animated" in other situations.</p> <p>There are all sorts of reasons for horses to be allowed to live, both for humane and practical reasons.</p> <p>A recent ballot initiative is taking off that would allow bobcats and other native cats within Colorado to live, rather than be killed for sport. One of the best ways of controlling horse populations is to allow their natural predators, such as bobcats to "do their job" rather than allowing horse populations to get large enough to warrant "helicopter roundups" and other evictions. etc. from their native lands.</p>