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Public Comment on the Colorado Wild Horse Bill SB23-275 presented to the
Colorado House Agriculture, Water and Natural Resources Committee
Hearing on May 3, 2023

I come to speak today against the Colorado Wild Horse Bill being presented to the Colorado House Agriculture Committee. I am a Colorado Resident on the Western Slope. Founder of Stop Wild Horses Roundups Coalition and have been advocating for Wild Horses across the Nation for 20 years.

This Bill is not a bill advocating for Colorado's wild horses. It is a bill lobbied by ranchers and the for-profit non-profits pesticide darting genocide agents across many States. This bill will do nothing but further harm to our Colorado Wild Horses. It is a Colorado State Partnership with the BLM, Livestock Ranchers, darters to extinction and USDA which is all about meat! All contributing to the Path Forward to Extinction and slaughter and supporting the number one lie that perpetuates helicopter roundups, bait and trap, mass sterilization and genocide, horses in holding, death, wild horses to slaughter as well as animal abuse of the highest order, the wild horse overpopulation Conspiracy. Both the State of Colorado and the Federal Government have animal abuse and cruelty laws. As a citizen and taxpayer of Colorado and this Nation, I am vehemently opposed to this Bill for the wild horses of Colorado are not beneficiaries in any way shape or form. As a Citizen of Colorado and Native to this Nation, I am outraged that \$1.5 million of our taxpayer monies approved by Governor Polis will be immediately placed into the hands of the wild horse destructors and more incoming.

We the Federal Taxpayers, the true owners of our Federally Protected Wild Horses and Burros suffer a \$150 million dollar thievery of our hard earned money annually and rising every year to pay for every corner of this Holocaust and Genocide of our Wild Horses of American at the bequest of Livestock Ranchers and wealthy Extraction Industry Conglomerates. They have obviously infiltrated not only Congress but The Colorado Assembly of legislators and all Western States. I believe that the BLM will stop doing helicopter roundups and not get the funding only because they have run out of wild horses to justify huge roundups and pay the Contractors which are all ranchers. They are now doing mass bait and trap removals and sterilization of our crippled herds this summer, all four Colorado herds that are already non viable. The main perpetrator of rounding up wild horses since before the WFRHB Act, Dave Cattoor, A Colorado Resident until recently was a convicted felon for killing wild horses from a helicopter yet the BLM contracts the family every year for 50 years since the Act. They have become multi-

millionaires as have many ranchers who are involved in every corner of this arena of cruelty and death to our wild horses. Americans are paying for every bit of this war on our Wild Horses against our will and our voices are repeatedly silenced. Both State and Federal Governments are not serving the American people at large but rather the destructive special interests destructors of our Public Lands Ecosystems. Natural Predators of wild horses and all wildlife are being killed off so that these two special interests highly subsidized by the American Taxpayer thanks to the USDA and Congress have free rein to destroy and deplete our land and water and scapegoat the wild horses for everything even though they were originally given only 12% of our Public Lands for priority use which is now less than 5% as HMA's are wiped out and no longer managed for wild horses to include the Colorado West Douglas herd since 2015 and last few taken last year. 90% of Colorado's Wild Horses were taken off the land in less than one year based on nothing but lies. Traumatized broken families...ghost horses, the walking dead confused and compromised, denied their God given right to procreate with natural selection and survival of the fittest for survival of the species. Goals for no foals for an animal that loves their families, suffers greatly, persecuted for the greedy ones and all those that support this madness and cruelty of a protected species who do no harm in Nature and have been there every step of the way in the evolution of man. It was unanimously agreed and signed off on in 1971 by Congress and President Nixon that these wild horses shall be free from branding, capture, harassment and death yet for 50 years since the Act every one of these violations have been broken by he BLM, our Government and the darters. This bill perpetuates the cycle.

Everything that this Wild Horse Bill is mandating at very high cost is already being done and for one to two decades, depending on the herd. Mass sterilization and consistent roundups bringing them down to non-viable yet this bill is encouraging further sterilization and genocide, weakening of these Native incredible genes that roam our wild lands, Ecosystem Engineers contributing to the health of the land and brought great joy to many Americans and revenues to back woods places. We should be ashamed as a Nation of greed, extraction and abuse to the wild animals of our wild places for private profit of the few, the destructors.

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As well as this article and video by William Simpson, Wild Horse Fire Brigade

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Suggestions as to what Colorado could do best for our wild horses rather than a Path Forward to Extinction Bill that will put the nail in the coffin For Colorado Wild Horses to be gone from our Landscape forever and endure more suffering.

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Secondly there is no wild horse overpopulations, never has been. BLM lies about overpopulation, has an extinction AML not based on science but eradication, lies about horses rounded up, horses in holding, horses killed and or slaughtered and on and on. Livestock overpopulate compared to wild horses 50 to one and are not supposed to get 80% of the forage allocation on our Wild Horse designated HMA's meant for their priority use according to the Act. The Colorado Assembly would do well for our wild horses to instruct the BLM to remove all livestock from the small pittance they are given for their priority use. Livestock ranchers have 255 million acres of our Public Lands and don't want to share one blade of grass with the Wild horses or ungulates big game on OUR land...their land.

Do not pass this Colorado Wild Horse Bill to perpetuate the cycle of abuse and extinction but rather tackle the problem which is gross livestock grazing and Oil and Gas extraction. These are our Lands, our wild horses and our Legislators are Public Servants hired by the people of Country and State to do their bidding not wage war with our money for destructive matters not good for the whole of all life.

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Thank you,

Pamela Lynn True
Colorado

I am a wildlife ecologist have observed several of Colorado's wild horse herds over many years, including Sand Wash Basin, Piceance, West Douglas, East Douglas, Little Bookcliffs, etc. If enacted this bill would have serious damaging consequences & effects concerning various valuable herds & their habitats involved w/ the project. I am particularly concerned w/ the hypocrisy involved in claiming this is a "wild" horse project that would domesticate so-called wild horses by altering their basic physiology & precluding natural selection processes so essential for survival fitness within & natural adaptation of wild horses to their unique natural habitats where they have legal right. What the bill proposes caters to traditional mustang enemies that the Wild Free-Roaming Horses & Burros Act was designed to protect them against! This is a form of capitulation showing little appreciation of or courage to uphold thriving naturally living horses.

I'm alarmed by the major promotion of fertility control drugs i.e. PZP, GonaCon. I've investigated effects of PZP on both individual mares, because of their crucial role in bands & herds, also on the societies they, along w/ the stallions, make possible. I propose a more horse-friendly strategy for achieving genetically viable & resilient populations that are the principal presences in their legal habitats, as the Wild Free-Roaming Horses and Burros Act clearly intends (section 2c). This is Reserve Design & closely related to Rewilding. This wild-horse-respectful strategy would not prejudge wild horses--often the case today w/ various agencies, but would allow them to harmoniously adapt to the viably sized & composed ecosystems & to self-stabilize once their niche is filled. This involves their freely allowed mature social units. This is possible, but people must allow it to happen, not dash in & force a system upon their habitats that caters primarily to livestock, big game hunting, mining & energy interests & vehicles! The latter is so often the case & is strangling the vitality of our public lands whose naturally restored life communities are so essential today if we are to effectively combat Global Warming & really save the precious life of this beautiful Earth! You can read about Reserve Design & related themes at: https://www.researchgate.net/publication/274006946_The_Horse_and_Burro_as_Positively_Contributing_Returned_Natives_in_North_America

It is the right way to honor our wonderful wild horses & would provide for their truly thriving & survival as long-term viable Earth-healing/restoring presences.

Some serious detrimental effects of PZP are:

(1) The undermining of the immune systems of wild horses over generations. This sets them up for decline & die-out due to disease, inclement weather, or other stressful situations. This is due to the fact that those mares w/ whom PZP acts least effectively are those w/ weaker immune systems. Hence, these are mares who end up producing the most offspring whose immune systems become successively weaker over the generations. This sets them up for decline & demise & makes them un-adaptive to the kinds of changes the Earth is experiencing today. We need populations in the thousands & unaltered horses if these wonderful & highly evolved animals are to survive & play their important ecosystem-restoring role, one so urgently needed today. The IUCN SSC Equid Specialist Groups recommends at least 2,500 intact individuals in the wild to achieve true viability, both genetically & in other respects.

(2) The serious stress & discontent experienced by PZPed mares in not being able to complete their natural reproductive life cycles. This leads to their frustrated rejection of stallion after stallion. I have observed this terrible stress in otherwise well-nourished mares & stallions!

(3) Disruption of social bands & hierarchies throws social structures into disarray. Breakdown of education passed from the mature to their progeny seriously affects their ability to survive.

(4) The lack of customary reproductive inhibition of younger by older horses, as occurs in mature, natural horse societies, throws the social order into disarray, affecting survival.

(5) Out-of-season/deformed/still born foals documented from those mares who are coming off PZP. This has been reported by scientists & concerned citizens.

The list of detrimental effects upon the horses is much more extensive. See:

<https://www.horsetalk.co.nz/2020/03/24/pzp-wild-horses-do-not-belong-together/>

May 3, 2023

Agriculture, Water & Natural Resources

Opposition to SB23-275 (Colorado Wild Horse Project)

My name is Jennifer Best. I am the Director of Friends of Animals Wildlife Law Program located in Centennial, Colorado. Friends of Animals has a long history of advocating for wild horses, has brought several successful lawsuits against the Bureau of Land Management (BLM) for its mismanagement of wild horses, and has identified ways for better, more humane management of wild horses – SB23-275, the “Colorado Wild Horse Project” is not one of them.

The key to a successful wild horse program is restoring wild horse habitat and mandating transparent, science-based range assessment and management. However, SB23-275 does neither of these and instead places the future of wild horses at risk by supporting BLM’s arbitrary population targets and encouraging fertility control, such as the pesticide, porcine zona pellucida (PZP.).

SB23-275 perpetuates the mismanagement of wild horses. There is not an overpopulation of wild horses in Colorado. In fact, there are only about 1,527 left on 365,988 acres of public land managed by the BLM. Nonetheless, BLM continues to spend millions of taxpayer dollars to keep populations at extremely low “appropriate management levels” (AMLs). As the National Academy of Sciences reported in 2013, “[h]ow AMLs are established, monitored, and adjusted is not transparent to stakeholders, supported by scientific information, or amenable to adaptation with new information and environmental and social change.”¹ The report explained, that “it is important to develop and maintain standards for transparency, quality, and equity in the establishment, adjustment, and monitoring of AMLs.”²

BLM, who commissioned this report, has never corrected the problem. BLM continues to rely on population targets that predate the National Academy of Sciences Report. Unfortunately, SB23-275 supports the broken system by offering to assist BLM in keeping wild horse populations dangerously low with detrimental fertility controls. The bill would also create the “wild horse project,” a nonprofit, state-owned corporate entity that manages and operates wild horse management programs.

¹ National Research Council. *Using science to improve the BLM wild horse and burro program: a way forward*. National Academies Press, 2013 at 12.

² *Id.* at 255.

The bill ignores the real problem — BLM has sacrificed the protections Congress afforded wild horses in the Wild Free-Roaming Horses and Burros Act to the meat industry, private landowners and ranchers, and other commercial interests. Of the 245 million acres of public land managed by the BLM, 155 million are open to livestock grazing. By contrast, wild horses are restricted to just 26.9 million acres (which continues to decrease under BLM management), and which they must share with livestock.

Upwards of 2 million cattle graze public lands, not to mention millions of sheep, and the government has authorized thousands of oil, gas, and mineral extraction projects in these areas as well. Livestock grazing and mining, not wild horses, are damaging the environment, fragmenting wildlife habitat, and contributing to climate change.

Just look at the livestock grazing permits in the Sand Wash Basin Herd Management Area, where a roundup is slated for September. Only 362 wild horses are allowed to graze there, yet a staggering 12,026 sheep and 300 cattle are allowed to graze in the herd management area. SB23-275 prohibits even considering transferring forage from private industries to wild horses and other wildlife without their agreement of industries using our public lands. Industry should not be allowed to control our public lands.

Moreover, the bill does nothing to help support a healthy, viable population of wild horses on public lands in Colorado. The Equid Specialist Group of the International Union for Conservation of Nature's Species Survival Commission recommends minimum populations of 2,500 individuals for the conservation of genetic diversity. Currently, no single herd management area has a minimal viable population for the long term, nor does the entire wild horse population in the state of Colorado. And it has been shown that healthy wild horse herds are vital to a thriving ecosystem. Unlike domestic cattle and sheep, wild horses can benefit the ecosystem, especially during droughts.³ Wild horses can dig wells creating oases that serve as a boon to other wildlife. Wild horses help to prevent catastrophic fires and build more moisture-retaining soils. Wild horses also help spread plant seeds over large areas. Wild horses do not decompose the vegetation they ingest as thoroughly as cattle or sheep, which allows the seeds of many plant species to pass through their digestive tract intact into the soil that the wild horses fertilize with their droppings. Wild horses enhance the ecosystem, rather than cause its degradation.

SB23-275 not only fails to protect Colorado's wild horses, but places them at risk by encouraging fertility control, such as the pesticide PZP. The debate over controlling wild horses' reproductive lives has become so heated that it has caused a significant break among wild horse advocates.

What PZP pushers don't want the public to know is that research shows PZP sterilizes wild horses after multiple uses and results in risky foal birth out of season and behavioral

³ See Lundgren, E. J., et al. (2021). Equids engineer desert water availability. *Science*, 372 (6541), 491-495; Downer, C. C. (2014). The horse and burro as positively contributing returned natives in North America. *American Journal of Life Sciences*, 2(1), 5-23; see also Lundgren, E. J., Ramp, D., Ripple, W. J., & Wallach, A. D. (2018). Introduced megafauna are rewilding the Anthropocene. *Ecography*, 41(6), 857-866.


changes that can affect the overall health of the herd. This paves the way for the eradication of wild horses and does not address the root of the problem, namely that the government continues to allow the destruction of wild horse habitat and public lands by factors that are not caused by wild horses.

Thank you for your attention to this issue. Friends of Animals respectfully request that you reject SB23-275, which would only further endanger the future of Colorado's wild horses.

Sincerely,

Jennifer Best
Director, Wildlife Law Program

Friends of Animals
Wildlife Law Program
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Centennial, CO 80112
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PLEASE SUPPORT THE WILD HORSE PROJECT SB 23-275

The wild horses and burros are in danger. Picture wild horses and burros peacefully grazing and playing together. The bands of horses, stallions, mares and foals are relaxed enjoying the company of their families. Suddenly the roar of the helicopter destroys the peace. As the helicopter comes closer the whirl of the blades kicks up dust that engulfs them. Terrorized, the wild horses and burros begin running for their lives. Pushed by the helicopter in the heat of summer and through uneven terrain toward the trap the wild horses lose their freedom and their families.

A young horse was chased by a helicopter during the Pancake, Nevada roundup over uneven terrain and broke a leg. The helicopter continued pushing the horse running on three legs. The horse finally was shot. At the recent Piceance, Colorado roundup horses were forced to run in the summer heat including newly born foals and pregnant mares. Horses were run into a barbed wire fence. Horses at the Twin Peaks, California roundup were crowded so tightly horses were climbing on each other trying to escape. Many are killed or injured during the roundups.

Losing their freedom and their families they face living in crowded dirty corrals. Shelter from the sun, the rain, the wind and the snow is not available. Proper food and water is not always given and diseases are common. Medical care is very limited and horses are shot. Last year at a BLM holding facility in Canon City, Colorado, 150 horses died. The horses were rounded up in 2021 and had not been vaccinated. There are 2500 horses there. A BLM facility in Wheatland holding 2700 horses just reopened after a year of quarantine due to strangles. The Litchfield corrals which has 700 wild horses and burros just closed due to an outbreak of strangles. In processing males are gelded, many die from the procedure. Females are treated with drugs such as PZP and Gonacon. Gonacon can cause permanent sterility. Effects of these drugs are not completely known. The claim of overpopulation is unproven.

Most of the wild horses are destined to live in long-term facilities run by private owners. Public access is prohibited. More than 60,000 wild horses are currently in holding. The BLM eventually puts some of the wild horses and burros up for adoption. In 2022 there were 7,793 adoptions. An incentive bonus of \$1,000 is paid after a year. Guidelines require an adopter to provide appropriate shelter, food and care. Unfortunately BLM doesn't monitor adoptions. The wild horses and wild burros are neglected, abused or sold for slaughter. A kill buyer Tom Davis adopted 1800 wild horses from the BLM and sold them for slaughter. He said he was using them in movies.

Horse slaughter is illegal in the United States. There were 20,000 horses exported to Canada and Mexico in 2022. Wyoming tried to legalize horse slaughter this year. Colorado tried to stop transport of horses for slaughter but the bill did not pass. Horses suffer tremendously. Crowded into trucks the horses are not fed or watered during the lengthy transport. Horses are trampled and suffer massive injuries such as gouged out eyes or broken bones. Some die on the trip. The United States Department of Agriculture states 92.3% of horses sent to slaughter are healthy and could be rehomed.

The Wild Horse and Burro Act of 1971 entrusted government agencies such as the Bureau of Land Management, the National Park Service and the United States Forest Service with their protection. The law is not followed. Under the pretext of overpopulation and lack of forage and water the wild horses and burros are removed from their land and separated from their families. The BLM sets an Appropriate Management Level (AML), the number of wild horses and burros a particular area can support. Often the AML is arbitrary. Herd Management Plans do not follow BLM regulations. Environmental assessments are not done. Courts have overruled some of the plans, particularly 10 year management plans.

Native Americans lived with horses in the early 1600's much earlier than commonly accepted.

Once the wild horses and burros are removed their land is given to cattle and sheep for grazing or parties interested in oil, natural gas or minerals. The cost per day to keep a wild horse or burro in holding is about \$5.00 per day. The grazing charge for a cow and calf is \$1.35 per month. The BLM paid Catoor Livestock \$559,250 for the Piceance, Colorado roundup. The 2022 budget was \$137.1 million. Congress sets the policy. Groups wanting the land contribute \$10,000 or more to congress people to sway their votes. Congressional representatives for oversight hearings.

Other land taken from the wild horses and burros is given to international corporations such as Barrick Gold based in Toronto or Rosemont Copper. Rosemont Copper is part of the Canadian company Hudbay. Lithium used in batteries is also mined. Amidst claims of drought mining requires 581,178 gallons of water to produce 2.2 lb of lithium.

Wild horses and burros managed by the United States Forest Service and the National Park Service are also losing their land. The Alpine horses in the Apache-Sitgreaves National Forest are labeled by the United States Forest Service as unauthorized livestock and sold at auction. Removing the horses costs \$467,000. The wild horses are also killed. Recently in the Apache-Sitgreave Forest 35 wild horses were shot. Another 30 wild horses have disappeared. In the neighboring Heber forest 40 wild horses have been killed. In southern Utah 16 wild horses were shot.

The National Park Service has 186 wild horses at Theodore Roosevelt State Park in North Dakota State Park. Even though the wild horses are very popular and bring as many as 850,000 international visitors the park wants to remove them.

Even though the wild horses are supposed to be protected by the BLM and homeowners in the Pine Nut Nevada HMA area signed waivers, the BLM trapped 18 horses forcing them to be relocated to a sanctuary. The BLM used 11 men, some of them armed to trap the horses. The BLM killed a horse found grazing on a lawn nearby.

There are some places where the wild horses are treated well and thrive. The National Park Service also manages wild horses at Assateague Island. The NPS manages the herd in Maryland. The horses in Virginia are managed by the Chincoteague Volunteer Fire Company through a special use permit issued by the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service.

There are horses on Cumberland Island in Georgia. Cumberland Island is a National Seashore under the National Park Service but the horses are on their own and not managed.

The Salt River Wild Horses in Arizona are managed by a group through the state of Arizona. Ten of the Alpine wild horses sold at auction are cared for by a member of the Salt River Management group.

In Nevada's Wild Horse Range horses are collectively managed by a private group the Wild Horse Connection and the state of Nevada. New Mexico also has wild horses on private lands. The Wild Horse Refuge in Colorado was recently opened by Pat Craig.

There are sanctuaries and individuals who provide wild horses and burros with a good life. Rewilding allows the thousands of wild horses and burros removed to regain their freedom and promised protection.



Thank you, Rep McCormick and members of this Committee for convening this hearing and for allowing me to testify!

I'm Rick Karcich from Centennial!

I want to make clear that no type of management can be done without first having actual scientific facts, including a clear explanation of what an Appropriate Management Level is for Wild Horses in Colorado and inclusion of the impact of livestock grazing on rangeland health in Colorado! The refusal to include the impact of livestock that's sharing the same land and which greatly outnumbers wild horses, is, at best, lazy and, at worst, fraudulent.

In fact, current policies toward WHs are thinly disguised plans for either bringing them down to cripplingly low, non-viable population levels that cannot adequately reproduce or for totally eliminating them from their legal HMAs.

In 2013 the National Academy of Sciences was engaged to study the BLM's management of Wild Horses up to that time and concluded those responsible for WH management are not amenable to adapting new information and environmental and social change into revised estimates of WHs. The same is true in 2023.

This Bill treats a non-proven "problem", i.e., the impact of WHs on rangeland health, while overlooking the very real problem of overgrazing by livestock which has been shown by BLM's own data to be a chief cause of rangeland damage.

There is no scientific proof of Wild Horse overpopulation in Colorado and trespass grazing by livestock on public lands is rampant.

All of Colorado's remaining WH herds on its 4 HMAs have been aggressively darted with PzP for well over a decade and this has not prevented roundups of WHs.

The small number of WHs this Bill intends to leave on each of our HMAs will result - indeed, has already resulted - in an over fragmentation of populations that jeopardizes their long-term survival and the preservation of each herd's genetic viability in the wild.

This Bill proposes bringing control of this situation under the wing of Colorado administrators who propose employing the same failed management techniques used by the BLM.

As a solution strategy, this is repeating failed policies and expecting different results!

I recommend the Legislature undertake a cost analysis of what livestock grazing on those HMAs costs Colorado taxpayers?

With that, I end my testimony and thank the Representatives again for your attention.

Additional Comments:

-In 2013 the National Academy of Sciences was engaged to study the BLM's management of Wild Horses up to that time and stated, "How appropriate management levels are established, monitored and adjusted is not transparent to stakeholders, supported by scientific information or amenable to adaptation with new information and environmental and social change". The same is true in 2023.

-BLM Colorado manages four wild horse herd management areas on approximately 400,000 acres. There is no current census of WHs or livestock. Trespass grazing by livestock on public lands is rampant. There are hundreds of thousands of cows and sheep grazing across western Colorado and yet BLM contends our public lands can only support around 800 Wild Horses.

-There are estimates of hundreds of thousands of cows and sheep and yet BLM contends our public lands can only support around 800 Wild Horses. Many grazing permits granted to ranchers are year-round to satisfy these millions of cattle and sheep. See this report on grazing allotments in Colorado, [https://urldefense.com/v3/__https://westernhorsewatchers.com/2021/03/14/allotment-status-in-colorado/__;!!N3hutN9gVC0oIVTJNA!WYw9WLJqsaIxcOt5eNsFrEWOdtxIfaBp3x8Iqn08wInjC0mvhPYU1Pr2lmvQtqoK5DOC84JxDXh3cRyH0ie0Ng8bH0\\$](https://urldefense.com/v3/__https://westernhorsewatchers.com/2021/03/14/allotment-status-in-colorado/__;!!N3hutN9gVC0oIVTJNA!WYw9WLJqsaIxcOt5eNsFrEWOdtxIfaBp3x8Iqn08wInjC0mvhPYU1Pr2lmvQtqoK5DOC84JxDXh3cRyH0ie0Ng8bH0$)

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-Though the unanimously passed Wild Free-Roaming Horses & Burros Act of 1971 (WFHBA) originally set aside around 88 million acres for their preservation in the wild, the rights of these animals and of their public supporters have been undermined and denied by the very officials charged with protecting them. Today WH&B have 29.4 million acres (BLM + USFS) set aside.

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exclusively for wild horses and burros.

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-There are proven instances of increasing numbers of livestock following roundups of WHBs, which negates BLM's claim they're doing it to save the range and there are too many horses.

-The WH&B Act of 1971 required management plans for WHs to "maintain a thriving natural ecological balance among wild horse populations, wildlife, livestock, and vegetation and to protect the range from the deterioration associated with overpopulation."

Advocates for this bill hold out the establishment of an approx 20K acre sanctuary in northwest Colorado as the salvation for Colorado's Wild Horses when the owner of the property, a Mr. Patrick Craig, has stated he will not allow public access to the property.

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-The BLM's current goal of drastically reducing already tiny and genetically vulnerable wild herds includes the sterilization of mares, through PZP darting, and the unnatural skewing of sex ratios to establish excess males in this naturally harem type of horse society.

-Based on documentation received directly from the BLM, and on visual observations there are large discrepancies in the numbers of horses and burros being managed by the BLM - both on and especially off the range. While the causes of the discrepancies may be many, I believe it would behoove the BLM to rectify these

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This Bill proposes bringing control of this situation under the wing of Colorado administrators who propose employing the same failed management techniques used by the BLM. A case in point is the area of fertility control of WH populations while blindly ignoring livestock's impact on rangeland health. As a solution strategy, this is textbook repeating failed policies and expecting different results!

I recommend the Legislature undertake a cost analysis of what livestock grazing on those HMAs costs Colorado taxpayers?

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Colorado Voters for Animals
A Voice for the Voiceless and a vote for the Vote-less®

SB23-275 - Colorado Wild Horse Project **SUPPORT**

My name is Roland Halpern and I am the executive director of Colorado Voters for Animals, an all-volunteer nonpartisan nonprofit that represents over 45,000 Coloradans throughout the state.

Earlier this year Colorado Voters for Animals testified in support of legislation that would have ended sending Colorado's horses to other countries for slaughter and processing into food for human consumption.

One argument against the bill was that without a market to dispose of horses owners no longer found useful, the horses would be abandoned and left to starve.

Although most horses turned into human food are domestic, wild horses are finding their way to slaughter as well.

While there is disagreement on the issue, some claim there are too many wild horses and in order to maintain what the Bureau of Land Management calls an AML, or appropriate management level, the herds need to be culled.

As a result, each year a pre-determined number of wild horses are rounded up and placed in holding pens. To help reduce the number of corralled horses, starting in 1999, the BLM created its Adoption Incentive Program. The program pays those wanting to adopt a wild horse \$1,000 per horse, for up to four horses total.

Since that program took effect, over 1,020 "adopted" wild horses didn't go to new homes but instead found their way to be slaughtered for human food. So, essentially some adopters "double dipped," taking federal money, and then turning around and selling the horses for slaughter.

The proposed law would solve some of the problem by creating working groups who would consider and evaluate among other alternatives, state-wide wild horse preserves, as well as wild horse sanctuaries.

Although this would not keep all wild horses off the menu, it would save some. Horses belong in pastures, not on plates.

Roland Halpern
Colorado Voters for Animals
roland@covotersforanimlas.org



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191 University Blvd., #345
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Protect Our Wild Horses: SB23-275: Wild Horses - Expert Request For Remote Zoom Testimony - 1:30 PM MST April 20th 2023 William E. Simpson II to: committees.lcs.ga@coleg.gov, dylan.roberts.senate@coleg.gov, nick.hinrichsen.senate@coleg.gov, rod.pelton.senate@coleg.gov, kevin.priola.senate@coleg.gov, Cleave.Simpson.senate@coleg.gov, Peter.guloba@state.co.us, cleave.simpson.senate@state.co.us 05/03/2023 12:06 PMPlease respond to "William E. Simpson II"

1. Good Morning Madam Chair & Committee Members. My name is William E. Simpson II. I am a wild horse ethologist and the founder and executive director of the all-volunteer, California based nonprofit public benefit corporation, Wild Horse Fire Brigade. I have lived-among and studied free-roaming wild horses in a wilderness area for the past 9-years continuously and manage a herd of aprox. 150 wild horses.
2. I am appearing here in opposition of SB22-275 and the so-called Wild Horse Project — The issues around proper wild horse management and sustainable conservation are not addressed by SB23-275. The Colorado Wild Horse Project proposes the sterilization of wild horses by stalking and shooting them with high-powered gas operated rifles firing projectile syringes containing Porcine Zona Pellucida - aka: 'PZP'. This draconian and genetically flawed process has been couched as 'Fertility Control'.
3. The issue that is central to wild horse management in most Bureau of Land Management Herd Areas is the competition for grazing and water resources between herbivores with commercial value in the \$-billions in annual revenue, namely livestock and game animals, and wild horses, which are non-commercial herbivores.
4. The notion that sterilizing wild horses using chemicals like PZP, couched as Fertility Control will stop roundups is preposterous, and is at best a highly questionable and costly genetic experiment on native species wild horses. Unvarnished facts show that the concept known as Fertility Control doesn't benefit the livestock industry or the wild horses. It does however benefit the nonprofit organizations who have lobbied this committee in favor of this bill and who are financially conflicted in this issue because they have and continue to monetize the plight of American wild horses, and who stand to benefit from \$-millions in tax dollars.
5. Fertility Control is a fake solution because it fails to address the central issue at hand, which is the competition for grazing and water resources in established Herd Areas.
6. Fertility Control is a fake solution because; sterilized horses still eat and drink. (I repeat)
7. Fertility Control using any type of sterilizing agent places an illogical and expensive burden upon public funds, while failing accomplish what is best for all involved stakeholders, especially wild horses and the genuine advocates who seek the sustainable natural conservation of American wild horses.
8. The ONLY genuine solution that is economically and ecologically appropriate is to relocate, and rewild horses into appropriate areas of designated critical wilderness where livestock production is prohibited and economically unfeasible due to the legal prohibition of motorized equipment and vehicles, and robust populations of apex predators. Apex predators naturally regulate wild horse populations through the evolutionary process of Natural Selection, which maintains the genetic vigor of wild horses.

There is approximately 115-million acres of designated critical wilderness in America, mostly in the pacific northwest, where grazing and water resources remain abundant.

Using just 20-million acres of that landscape, we could relocate/rewild 100,000 horses at a distribution rate of 1-horse per 200 acres, ending grazing conflicts in established Herd Areas, while simultaneously reducing wildfire fuels (grass and brush) in areas at risk for catastrophic wildfire.

Thank You.

Capt. William E. Simpson II - USMM Ret.
Founder - Exec. Director - Wild Horse Fire Brigade
 Ethologist - Author - Conservationist
Wild Horse Ranch
 P.O. Bx. 202 - Yreka, CA 96097
 Creator: [Wild Horse Fire Brigade \(https://www.wildhorsefirebrigade.org/\)](https://www.wildhorsefirebrigade.org/)
 Author @ [HorseTalk](#)
 Member: [IMDb](#)
 Muck Rack: <https://muckrack.com/william-e-simpson-ii>

William E. Simpson II is an ethologist living among and studying free-roaming native species American wild horses. William is the award-winning producer of the micro-documentary film ['Wild Horses'](#). He is the author of a new [Study](#) about the behavioral ecology of wild horses, two published books and more than 150 published articles on subjects related to wild horses, wildlife, wildfire, and public land (forest) management. He has appeared on [NBC NEWS](#), [ABC NEWS](#), [CBS NEWS](#), theDoveTV and has been a guest on numerous talk radio shows including the [Lars Larson Show](#), the Bill Meyer Show, [NPR Jefferson](#)

Public Radio and NPR National Radio.

Check out William's Film Freeway account for films, studies, TV & radio interviews, and more [HERE: https://filmfreeway.com/WilliamESimpsonII](https://filmfreeway.com/WilliamESimpsonII)

-----Original Message-----

From: William E. Simpson II <gemmaster7@aol.com>

To: committees.lcs.ga@coleg.gov <committees.lcs.ga@coleg.gov>; dylan.roberts.senate@coleg.gov <dylan.roberts.senate@coleg.gov>; nick.hinrichsen.senate@coleg.gov <nick.hinrichsen.senate@coleg.gov>; rod.pelton.senate@coleg.gov <rod.pelton.senate@coleg.gov>; kevin.priola.senate@coleg.gov <kevin.priola.senate@coleg.gov>; Cleave.Simpson.senate@coleg.gov <Cleave.Simpson.senate@coleg.gov>; Peter.guloba@state.co.us <Peter.guloba@state.co.us>; cleave.simpson.senate@state.co.us <cleave.simpson.senate@state.co.us>
Cc: kati.weis@cbs.com <kati.weis@cbs.com>; jennifer@coloradosun.com <jennifer@coloradosun.com>; president@coloradocollege.edu <president@coloradocollege.edu>; billhudsonproductions@gmail.com <billhudsonproductions@gmail.com>; pagosadaily@gamil.com <pagosadaily@gamil.com>; pltruely@aol.com <pltruely@aol.com>; dana@coloradosun.com <dana@coloradosun.com>; larry@coloradosun.com <larry@coloradosun.com>; luige.delpuerto@coloradopolitics.com <luige.delpuerto@coloradopolitics.com>; joey.bunch@coloradopolitics.com <joey.bunch@coloradopolitics.com>; lpierce@denverpost.com <lpierce@denverpost.com>; tmcghee@denverpost.com <tmcghee@denverpost.com>; jamon@denverpost.com <jamon@denverpost.com>; jingold@denverpost.com <jingold@denverpost.com>; editor@steamboatpilot.com <editor@steamboatpilot.com>; danderson@steamboatpilot.com <danderson@steamboatpilot.com>; lschlichtman@steamboatpilot.com <lschlichtman@steamboatpilot.com>; epace@steamboatpilot.com <epace@steamboatpilot.com>; britt.boice@oregonlegislature.gov <britt.boice@oregonlegislature.gov>; rep.courtboice@oregonlegislature.gov <rep.courtboice@oregonlegislature.gov>; newstips@denver7.com <newstips@denver7.com>; coloradovoices@rmpbs.org <coloradovoices@rmpbs.org>; ccdowner@aol.com <ccdowner@aol.com>; kelseystangebye@gmail.com <kelseystangebye@gmail.com>; mrharris@vermontlaw.edu <mrharris@vermontlaw.edu>; bbaitinger@mcclatchy.com <bbaitinger@mcclatchy.com>; abigail.brooks@nbcuni.com <abigail.brooks@nbcuni.com>; rt@rtfitch.com <rt@rtfitch.com>; rep.lilymorgan@oregonlegislature.gov <rep.lilymorgan@oregonlegislature.gov>; eduardo.garcia@asm.ca.gov <eduardo.garcia@asm.ca.gov>; luz.rivas@asm.ca.gov <luz.rivas@asm.ca.gov>; congressmancarbajal@mail.house.gov <congressmancarbajal@mail.house.gov>; editor@trinityjournal.com <editor@trinityjournal.com>; editor@horse-canada.com <editor@horse-canada.com>; editor@jhnewsandguide.com <editor@jhnewsandguide.com>; letters@deseretnews.com <letters@deseretnews.com>; editor@thehill.com <editor@thehill.com>; editor@bmeagle.com <editor@bmeagle.com>; editor@eastoregonian.com <editor@eastoregonian.com>; editor@elkodaily.com <editor@elkodaily.com>; editor@eugeneweekly.com <editor@eugeneweekly.com>; editor@helenair.com <editor@helenair.com>; editor@lakeconews.com <editor@lakeconews.com>; editor@missoulacurrent.com <editor@missoulacurrent.com>; editor@mtstandard.com <editor@mtstandard.com>; editor@mongabay.com <editor@mongabay.com>; editor@rgj.com <editor@rgj.com>; editor@spokesman.com <editor@spokesman.com>; editorial@eenews.net <editorial@eenews.net>; editors@agweb.com <editors@agweb.com>; editors@farmjournal.com <editors@farmjournal.com>; editor@eastcountymagazine.org <editor@eastcountymagazine.org>; west.coast.editors@theguardian.com <west.coast.editors@theguardian.com>; editor@taosnews.com <editor@taosnews.com>; editor@hcn.org <editor@hcn.org>; editor@wyofile.com <editor@wyofile.com>; cowboylogicradio@gmail.com <cowboylogicradio@gmail.com>; jim@cowboystatedaily.com <jim@cowboystatedaily.com>; mark@cowboystatedaily.com <mark@cowboystatedaily.com>; feral@friendsofanimals.org <feral@friendsofanimals.org>; jennifer@friendsofanimals.org <jennifer@friendsofanimals.org>; mdaw@st-tel.net <mdaw@st-tel.net>; mike@wyofile.com <mike@wyofile.com>; nopermissionneeded1@yahoo.com <nopermissionneeded1@yahoo.com>
Sent: Fri, Apr 21, 2023 2:06 pm
Subject: PAGOSA DAILY POST: Protect Our Wild Horses: SB23-275: Wild Horses - Expert Request For Remote Zoom Testimony - 1:30 PM MST April 20th 2023

This is just the first media pickup of my formal letter to the Chair and Committee Members of the Colorado Ag & Resource Committee:

970-903-2673 | pagosadaily@gamil.com

OPEN LETTER: Protect Our Wild Horses in Colorado

Posted on [April 21, 2023 by Post Contributor](#)

TO: Colorado Senate Agriculture & Natural Resources Committee

Dear Chairman Dylan and Committee Members:...

<https://pagosadaily.com/2023/04/21/open-letter-protect-our-wild-horses-in-colorado/>

Regards, William

Capt. William E. Simpson II - USMM Ret.

Founder - Exec. Director - Wild Horse Fire Brigade

Ethologist - Author - Conservationist

Wild Horse Ranch

P.O. Bx. 202 - Yreka, CA 96097

[Wild Horse Fire Brigade \(https://www.wildhorsefirebrigade.org/\)](https://www.wildhorsefirebrigade.org/)

Author @ [HorseTalk](#)

William E. Simpson II is an ethologist living among and studying free-roaming native species American wild horses. William is the award-winning producer of the micro-documentary film 'Wild Horses'. He is the author of a new Study about the behavioral ecology of wild horses, two published books and more than 150 published articles on subjects related to wild horses, wildlife, wildfire, and public land (forest) management. He has appeared on [NBC NEWS](#), [ABC NEWS](#), [CBS NEWS](#), theDoveTV and has been a guest on numerous talk radio shows including the [Lars Larson Show](#), the Bill Meyer Show, [NPR Jefferson Public Radio and NPR National Radio](#).

Check out William's Film Freeway account for films, studies, TV & radio interviews, and more [HERE: https://filmfreeway.com/WilliamESimpsonII](https://filmfreeway.com/WilliamESimpsonII)

-----Original Message-----

From: William E. Simpson II <gemmaster7@aol.com>

To: committees.lcs.ga@coleg.gov <committees.lcs.ga@coleg.gov>; dylan.roberts.senate@coleg.gov <dylan.roberts.senate@coleg.gov>; nick.hinrichsen.senate@coleg.gov <nick.hinrichsen.senate@coleg.gov>; rod.pelton.senate@coleg.gov <rod.pelton.senate@coleg.gov>; kevin.priola.senate@coleg.gov <kevin.priola.senate@coleg.gov>; Cleave.Simpson.senate@coleg.gov <Cleave.Simpson.senate@coleg.gov>; Peter.guloba@state.co.us <Peter.guloba@state.co.us>; cleave.simpson.senate@state.co.us <cleave.simpson.senate@state.co.us>
Cc: kati.weis@cbs.com <kati.weis@cbs.com>; jennifer@coloradosun.com <jennifer@coloradosun.com>; president@coloradocollege.edu <president@coloradocollege.edu>; billhudsonproductions@gmail.com <billhudsonproductions@gmail.com>; pagosadailypost@gmail.com <pagosadailypost@gmail.com>; pltruely@aol.com <pltruely@aol.com>; dana@coloradosun.com <dana@coloradosun.com>; larry@coloradosun.com <larry@coloradosun.com>; luige.delpuerto@coloradopolitics.com <luige.delpuerto@coloradopolitics.com>; joey.bunch@coloradopolitics.com <joey.bunch@coloradopolitics.com>; lpierce@denverpost.com <lpierce@denverpost.com>; tmcghee@denverpost.com <tmcghee@denverpost.com>; jamon@denverpost.com <jamon@denverpost.com>; jingold@denverpost.com <jingold@denverpost.com>; editor@steamboatpilot.com <editor@steamboatpilot.com>; danderson@steamboatpilot.com <danderson@steamboatpilot.com>; lschlichtman@steamboatpilot.com <lschlichtman@steamboatpilot.com>; epace@steamboatpilot.com <epace@steamboatpilot.com>; britt.boice@oregonlegislature.gov <britt.boice@oregonlegislature.gov>; rep.courtboice@oregonlegislature.gov <rep.courtboice@oregonlegislature.gov>; newstips@denver7.com <newstips@denver7.com>; coloradovoices@rmpbs.org <coloradovoices@rmpbs.org>; ccdowner@aol.com <ccdowner@aol.com>; kelseystangebye@gmail.com <kelseystangebye@gmail.com>; mrharris@vermontlaw.edu <mrharris@vermontlaw.edu>; bbaitinger@mcclatchy.com <bbaitinger@mcclatchy.com>; abigail.brooks@nbcuni.com <abigail.brooks@nbcuni.com>; rt@rtfitch.com <rt@rtfitch.com>; rep.lilymorgan@oregonlegislature.gov <rep.lilymorgan@oregonlegislature.gov>; eduardo.garcia@asm.ca.gov <eduardo.garcia@asm.ca.gov>; luz.rivas@asm.ca.gov <luz.rivas@asm.ca.gov>; congressmancarbajal@mail.house.gov <congressmancarbajal@mail.house.gov>; editor@trinityjournal.com <editor@trinityjournal.com>; editor@horse-canada.com <editor@horse-canada.com>; editor@jhnewsandguide.com <editor@jhnewsandguide.com>; letters@deseretnews.com <letters@deseretnews.com>; editor@thehill.com <editor@thehill.com>; editor@bmeagle.com <editor@bmeagle.com>; editor@eastoregonian.com <editor@eastoregonian.com>; editor@elkodaily.com <editor@elkodaily.com>; editor@eugeneweekly.com <editor@eugeneweekly.com>; editor@helenair.com <editor@helenair.com>; editor@lakeconews.com <editor@lakeconews.com>; editor@missoulacurrent.com <editor@missoulacurrent.com>; editor@mtstandard.com <editor@mtstandard.com>; editor@mongabay.com <editor@mongabay.com>; editor@rgj.com <editor@rgj.com>; editor@spokesman.com <editor@spokesman.com>; editorial@eenews.net <editorial@eenews.net>; editors@agweb.com <editors@agweb.com>; editors@farmjournal.com <editors@farmjournal.com>; editor@eastcountymagazine.org <editor@eastcountymagazine.org>; west.coast.editors@theguardian.com <west.coast.editors@theguardian.com>; editor@taosnews.com <editor@taosnews.com>; editor@hcn.org <editor@hcn.org>; editor@wyofile.com <editor@wyofile.com>; cowboylogicroadio@gmail.com <cowboylogicroadio@gmail.com>; jim@cowboystatedaily.com <jim@cowboystatedaily.com>; mark@cowboystatedaily.com <mark@cowboystatedaily.com>; feral@friendsofanimals.org <feral@friendsofanimals.org>; jennifer@friendsofanimals.org <jennifer@friendsofanimals.org>; mdaw@st-tel.net <mdaw@st-tel.net>; mike@wyofile.com <mike@wyofile.com>; nopermissionneeded1@yahoo.com <nopermissionneeded1@yahoo.com>; William E. Simpson II <gemmaster7@aol.com>
Sent: Thu, Apr 20, 2023 8:55 pm
Subject: Testimony: A Stacked Deck?: SB23-275: Wild Horses - Expert Request For Remote Zoom Testimony - 1:30 PM MST April 20th 2023

AN OPEN DEMAND LETTER (May be re-printed/published).

TO: Colorado Senate Agriculture & Natural Resources Committee

RE: Committee: Senate Agriculture & Natural Resources

Date Time: 04/20/2023 01:30 PM

Bill: SB23-275

Dear Chairman Dylan - Committee Members - And Copied News Media

First, please allow me to re-assert my standing as an American and taxpayer in the matter of the proposed publicly-funded management project cited in SB23-275 for *publicly-owned* American wild horses on federal lands *using public funding*.

As the Bureau of Land Management representative testified, some federal tax dollars would be provided into the proposed project envisioned by SB23-275 along with Colorado tax-dollars.

Sadly, in the interest of my civic duty, the *Public Trust, Colorado State and Federal taxpayers*, wildlife interests (cost-effective *sustainable conservation* of the wild horses in Colorado) as well as natural resource interests (forest and agriculture), I am disappointed (to say the least) in the manner in which testimony was handled during today's Committee session.

And given that \$-millions of Tax Dollars are at risk for funding an arguably doomed project based upon past results, this issue must be brought to the attention of American taxpayers.

Spending \$-millions of tax dollars annually on 'Fertility Control' ('PZP') does not economically address the issue at hand causing the range war for grazing resources. **Even sterilized horses must eat!**

This why Fertility Control via PZP used for the past 20+ years has not stopped expensive taxpayer-funded roundups that are brutal to wild horses and the landscape. Not to mention the scientifically proven adverse genetic and health impacts of using PZP on wild horses.

And after the expensive roundups, the ongoing exorbitant and soaring costs for off-range holding and feeding of stored wild horses is necessary spending (\$250-M/YR).

All of that is unnecessary given wild horses can be humanely and cost-effectively relocated to economically and ecologically appropriate wilderness areas where their presence is financially beneficial and they no longer compete for grazing with livestock.

As I am sure you are aware, the normal time-period allotted for public testimony at virtually all county, state and Federal public input events, is three (3) minutes, and is the universally standard amount of time allotted for public testimony. The clock was started at my introduction, even before I began my statement.

I for one, fully expected to be allotted the full 3-minutes to make my oral presentation and spent considerable time to prepare a statement that could provide a logical explanation of our opposition to SB23-275 and deliver that orally within 3-minutes.

Even as the testimony period began, the time clock on the witness desk was setback from 3-minutes from the standard 3-minutes to 2-minutes by someone there?

Based upon the testimony given (parts making up a whole), it's no stretch to suspect that the collective assembly of supporters for SB23-275 carefully coordinated with each-other prior to *providing statements in a manner that allowed the equivalent of a very long position statement to be told in ordered segments by each of the registered collective supporters.*

American Wild Horse Campaign, The Cloud Foundation (*their rep. Charlotte Roe was permitted over 3-minutes to speak*), Animal Welfare Institute, Sierra Club, Aria, and others (See Image Below) had seemingly coordinated in advance to have each corroborating witness in favor of this spending bill provide in-turn a segment of a large comprehensive statement in favor of the bill.

This arguable *organized presentation* provided the agents working in favor of the bill with a manifestly unfair advantage in arguing and supporting their position.

Those witnesses testifying in opposition to the SB23-275, such as myself, were held to the 2-minutes by your clock and our polite etiquette out of respect for the committee's time and the process.

Moreover, those witnesses testifying in opposition to the bill did not work out any coordinated presentation where each individual statement was an integral part of a strategically designed larger comprehensive statement.



Arguably, given that there is potentially \$-millions in annual grants and other monies that would benefit some of these Orgs and the personal salaries of their officers, they are arguably conflicted.

In many cases, these Orgs pay their officers and executive directors handsomely from monies they receive.

And as such, these Orgs should also be required in the interest of transparency to inform the Committee that they have monetary conflicts of interest.

Speaking for myself and my nonprofit, we are all unpaid volunteers, so we do not have a conflict of interest that influences our science or opinions.

As we now see, some of Orgs are monetarily conflicted since they would *benefit financially* with Fertility Control (PZP) grants (money) and also from donations collected on the arguably *false statement* that using PZP will halt roundups of wild horses should the bill pass.

And these Orgs would benefit at the expense of Colorado and American taxpayers.

This must not stand.

I hereby respectfully demand that the parties who appeared in person and remotely in opposition to SB23-275 be timely provided with an opportunity to present their full 3-minute statements in opposition of the bill in writing, *and have those statements integrated in-full context* into the record associated with the bill as it moves into the next round of consideration.

I am making the Colorado media and taxpayers associations aware of what has transpired today in hopes that they will report to Colorado and American taxpayers about this proceeding, which seems to be setup in favor of those supporting this wasteful, economically ineffective (does not solve grazing conflicts with wild horses; Sterilized horses proposed via the SB23-275, still eat and compete for grazing resources), and according to the best available science, this is a genetically reckless bill.

I strongly urge the Chair and Committee members to read the published articles and view the news videos below from your local, regional and national press as to my statements herein in support of this request:

1. Pagosa Daily Press: <https://pagosadailypost.com/2021/12/07/opinion-wild-horses-on-the-virginia-range-land-of-the-walking-dead/>

2. CBS COLORADO: <https://www.cbsnews.com/colorado/news/mustangs-wildfire-mitigation-rancher-solution-wild-horse-debate/>
3. Lake County News: <https://www.lakeconews.com/news/community/commentary/74751-costly-wild-horse-management-exposing-the-crutches-of-a-failed-paradigm-killing-american-wild-horses>
4. ABC News: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=cFrLJ2vashU>
5. Linked-In Article 'Saving Wild Horses': <https://www.linkedin.com/pulse/saving-wild-horses-truth-consequences-necessity-bad-simpson-ii>
6. NPR national Science (audio & print story): <https://www.npr.org/2022/10/30/1131042723/preventing-wildfire-with-the-wild-horse-fire-brigade>
7. Insurance industry (Am Best TV): <https://www.ambest.com/video/video.aspx?s=1&rc=wildhorses323>

I would appreciate a response to this email at your earliest convenience.

Thank you.

Respectfully Yours,

William



Capt. William E. Simpson II - USMM Ret.
Founder - Exec. Director - Wild Horse Fire Brigade
 Ethologist - Author - Conservationist
Wild Horse Ranch
 P.O. Bx. 202 - Yreka, CA 96097
[Wild Horse Fire Brigade \(https://www.wildhorsefirebrigade.org/\)](https://www.wildhorsefirebrigade.org/)
 Author @ [HorseTalk](#)

William E. Simpson II is an ethologist living among and studying free-roaming native species American wild horses. William is the award-winning producer of the micro-documentary film ["Wild Horses"](#). He is the author of a new [Study](#) about the behavioral ecology of wild horses, two published books and more than 150 published articles on subjects related to wild horses, wildlife, wildfire, and public land (forest) management. He has appeared on [NBC NEWS](#), [ABC NEWS](#), [CBS NEWS](#), [theDoveTV](#) and has been a guest on numerous talk radio shows including the [Lars Larson Show](#), the Bill Meyer Show, [NPR Jefferson Public Radio](#) and [NPR National Radio](#).

Check out William's Film Freeway account for films, studies, TV & radio interviews, and more [HERE: https://filmfreeway.com/WilliamESimpsonII](https://filmfreeway.com/WilliamESimpsonII)

-----Original Message-----

From: William E. Simpson II <gemmaster7@aol.com>
 To: committees.lcs.ga@coleg.gov <committees.lcs.ga@coleg.gov>; dylan.roberts.senate@coleg.gov <dylan.roberts.senate@coleg.gov>; nick.hinrichsen.senate@coleg.gov <nick.hinrichsen.senate@coleg.gov>; rod.pelton.senate@coleg.gov <rod.pelton.senate@coleg.gov>; kevin.priola.senate@coleg.gov <kevin.priola.senate@coleg.gov>; Cleave.Simpson.senate@coleg.gov <Cleave.Simpson.senate@coleg.gov>
 Cc: kati.weis@cbs.com <kati.weis@cbs.com>; jennifer@coloradosun.com <jennifer@coloradosun.com>; president@coloradocollege.edu <president@coloradocollege.edu>; billhudsonproductions@gmail.com <billhudsonproductions@gmail.com>; pagosadailypost@gmail.com <pagosadailypost@gmail.com>; pltruely@aol.com <pltruely@aol.com>; dana@coloradosun.com <dana@coloradosun.com>; larry@coloradosun.com <larry@coloradosun.com>; luige.delpuerto@coloradopolitics.com <luige.delpuerto@coloradopolitics.com>; joey.bunch@coloradopolitics.com <joey.bunch@coloradopolitics.com>; lpierce@denverpost.com <lpierce@denverpost.com>; tmcghee@denverpost.com <tmcghee@denverpost.com>; jamon@denverpost.com <jamon@denverpost.com>; jingold@denverpost.com <jingold@denverpost.com>; editor@steamboatpilot.com <editor@steamboatpilot.com>; danderson@steamboatpilot.com <danderson@steamboatpilot.com>; lschlichtman@steamboatpilot.com <lschlichtman@steamboatpilot.com>; epace@steamboatpilot.com <epace@steamboatpilot.com>; britt.boice@oregonlegislature.gov <britt.boice@oregonlegislature.gov>; rep.courtboice@oregonlegislature.gov <rep.courtboice@oregonlegislature.gov>
 Sent: Wed, Apr 19, 2023 8:23 pm
 Subject: SB23-275: Wild Horses - Expert Request For Remote Zoom Testimony - 1:30 PM MST April 20th 2023

**TO: Senator Dylan Roberts - Chairman
Colorado Senate Agriculture and Natural Resources Committee**

Dear Chairman Roberts:

My name is William E. Simpson II. I am the founder and Executive Director of the California based 501-c-3 public benefit nonprofit corporation 'Wild Horse Fire Brigade'.

I am respectfully requesting that my testimony via ZOOM be allowed into the proceeding. I have registered at the Colorado Legislative website to be a Zoom participant and have confirmation of that registration (*See Below Signature Line*).

I make this request respectfully, based upon my experience with wild horses, and the fact that as an American taxpayer, I have standing in regard to American-owned wild horses being managed on public federal lands.

I also make this this request in the highest interest of the Public Trust given the economic value wild horses can provide when properly managed in ecologically and economically appropriate areas. And over the past 9-years, I have developed and proven a plan that can end the conflicts with wild horses on Public Lands.

Background - Experience - Bona-Fides:

I grew up on a working ranch raising registered polled Hereford cattle in the FFA. I attended Oregon State University as a pre-med science major. I have also worked in the forestry-logging industry and have managed forest and fought wildfire.

I am the only trained scientist (see attachment from Stanford Research Institute) in America today who is documented as having lived-among and studied free-roaming wild horses in a mountain wilderness area for 9-years continuously.

My research (Study) on wild horse ecology-ethology was featured by ReWilding Europe's (funded by the Holland Lottery) wildfire focused journal *GrazeLIFE*:

In 2019, numerous elected official (sitting U.S. Congressman Greg Walden, Ag. Commissioner, etc.) nominated me to the BLM's Wild Horse and Burro Advisory Board. These officials consider me a leading expert on wild horses and their management, since I am also own and manage a herd of 150+ wild horses. Here is a PDF containing some of the Letters of bona-fides: https://www.wildhorsefirebrigade.org/files/ugd/b50928_d4424087009e4d319c0915981ebcbf25.pdf

I have empirical experience with over 50 Mustangs that had been treated with Fertility Control and the side effects, including adverse impacts on family (band) dynamics, which impact long-terms sustainable conservation of American wild horses being managed using fertility controls.

My researched articles and studies (over 200) have been widely published and form a body of science-supported evidence in regard to managing wild horses in a more cost-effective and ecologically appropriate manner.

A graduate student from **Colorado College** produced an award-winning documentary (Officially Selected by the Aspen Mountain Film Festival and Santa Fe Film Festival) title **'Fuel, Fire and Wild Horses'** which featured Pulitzer Prize winner David Phillips and myself: <https://vimeo.com/327282987>

Congressman Joe Neguse praised that film in writing:



Additionally dozens of local, regional, national and international media outlets have featured my research and improved plan for managing American wild horses. Here are just a few examples:

1. **NPR national Science** (audio & print story): <https://www.npr.org/2022/10/30/1131042723/preventing-wildfire-with-the-wild-horse-fire-brigade>
2. **Insurance industry** (Am Best TV): <https://www.ambest.com/video/video.aspx?s=1&rc=wildhorses323>

3. KDRV (ABC) News Video: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=cFrLJ2vashU>

Our nonprofit website is here: <https://www.WildHorseFireBrigade.org>

Thank you in advance for considering this request to testify via ZOOM.

Respectfully submitted,

William

Capt. William E. Simpson II - USMM Ret.

Founder - Exec. Director - Wild Horse Fire Brigade

Ethologist - Author - Conservationist

Wild Horse Ranch

P.O. Bx. 202 - Yreka, CA 96097

Wild Horse Fire Brigade (<https://www.wildhorsefirebrigade.org/>)

Author @ [HorseTalk](#)

Member: [IMDb](#)

Muck Rack: <https://muckrack.com/william-e-simpson-ii>

William E. Simpson II is an ethologist living among and studying free-roaming native species American wild horses. William is the award-winning producer of the micro-documentary film ["Wild Horses"](#). He is the author of a new [Study](#) about the behavioral ecology of wild horses, two published books and more than 150 published articles on subjects related to wild horses, wildlife, wildfire, and public land (forest) management. He has appeared on [NBC NEWS](#), [ABC NEWS](#), [CBS NEWS](#), theDoveTV and has been a guest on numerous talk radio shows including the [Lars Larson Show](#), the Bill Meyer Show, [NPR Jefferson Public Radio](#) and [NPR National Radio](#).

Check out William's Film Freeway account for films, studies, TV & radio interviews, and more [HERE: https://filmfreeway.com/WilliamESimpsonII](https://filmfreeway.com/WilliamESimpsonII)

-----Original Message-----

From: LCS Committees <committees.lcs.ga@coleg.gov>

To: gemmaster7@aol.com

Cc: committees.lcs.ga@coleg.gov

Sent: Wed, Apr 19, 2023 3:13 pm

Subject: Registration confirmation - Senate Agriculture & Natural Resources 04/20/2023 01:30 PM (Remote)

Thank you for registering to testify remotely at the following hearing:

Committee: Senate Agriculture & Natural Resources

Date Time: 04/20/2023 01:30 PM

Bill: SB23-275

Position on Bill: Against

Committee Information

Remote testimony is generally intended for in-state, Colorado witnesses. Remote testimony from out-of-state witnesses is subject to the Chair's discretion. The committee chair determines the order of testimony and may limit the time allotted for public testimony. In most cases, testimony is limited to 2 to 3 minutes per witness. Witnesses may be called to testify at any point during the hearing as determined by the chair.

Hearings may be delayed or rescheduled. Please check the House and Senate calendars posted on the General Assembly's website for updates. For committee changes that occur the day of a committee hearing, please visit the Legislative Council committees Twitter feed, @COLCSCommittees, for updates.

You can track committee and floor action through this link: <https://www.leg.state.co.us/public/display.nsf/index.html>

For additional information on testifying before a committee of the Colorado General Assembly, please read the memorandum found [here](#). The regulations for remote testimony can be found [here](#). **All witnesses must be registered in order to testify. Please do not share the Zoom link with unregistered witnesses. Unregistered witnesses will not be permitted to testify.**

Use the link below to join the meeting: <https://coleg-gov.zoom.us/j/86908232147?pwd=VGVnRVprR1pTdktBNit3T0ZWdkRgZz09>

If you are prompted for a pass code, enter 54321.

You are registered under this name:

William Simpson II (Wild Horse Fire Brigade a 501-c-3 California public benefit corporation)

gemmaster7@aol.com

858 212 5762

Zoom Best Practices and Helpful Tips

- Limit internet use for other applications/devices (especially streaming services such as Netflix/HBO/DisneyPlus which may slow down internet speeds and disrupt your Zoom experience).
- Mute when not speaking.
- Use wired headphones or a USB headset to eliminate audio loops and feedback. Bluetooth audio headsets are notorious for issues with computers and work best with cellular devices.
- Test Zoom prior to the meeting. You can download the Zoom app on your computer or mobile device in advance to make the process easier.
- You may join the Zoom meeting as early as 30 minutes prior to the meeting start to make sure you can connect and to test your speaker, microphone, and video settings.

During the Meeting

You will enter Zoom in a waiting room and be admitted to the meeting as an attendee. Attendees can watch and listen to the hearing but will not be able to unmute or start video.

The meeting host will make you a panelist when the chair calls you to testify, and you will be able to unmute your sound. Please wait for the chair to acknowledge you before unmuting your sound and giving your testimony.

You are encouraged to turn on your video camera when you are made a panelist. Occasionally, the option to turn on your video is unavailable, even after becoming a panelist. In this case, you may still provide verbal testimony. If you would like to ensure your video will be available for the hearing, please sign on to Zoom prior to the start of the hearing to test your camera with the meeting's host.

If You Need Assistance

Please contact IT Support at 303.866.5849 if you have technical issues connecting to the meeting. For questions about your registration or the committee hearing, please email committees.lcs.ga@coleg.gov or call 303.866.3521.

Thank you
Colorado Legislative Council Staff