

# A Public/Private Partnership

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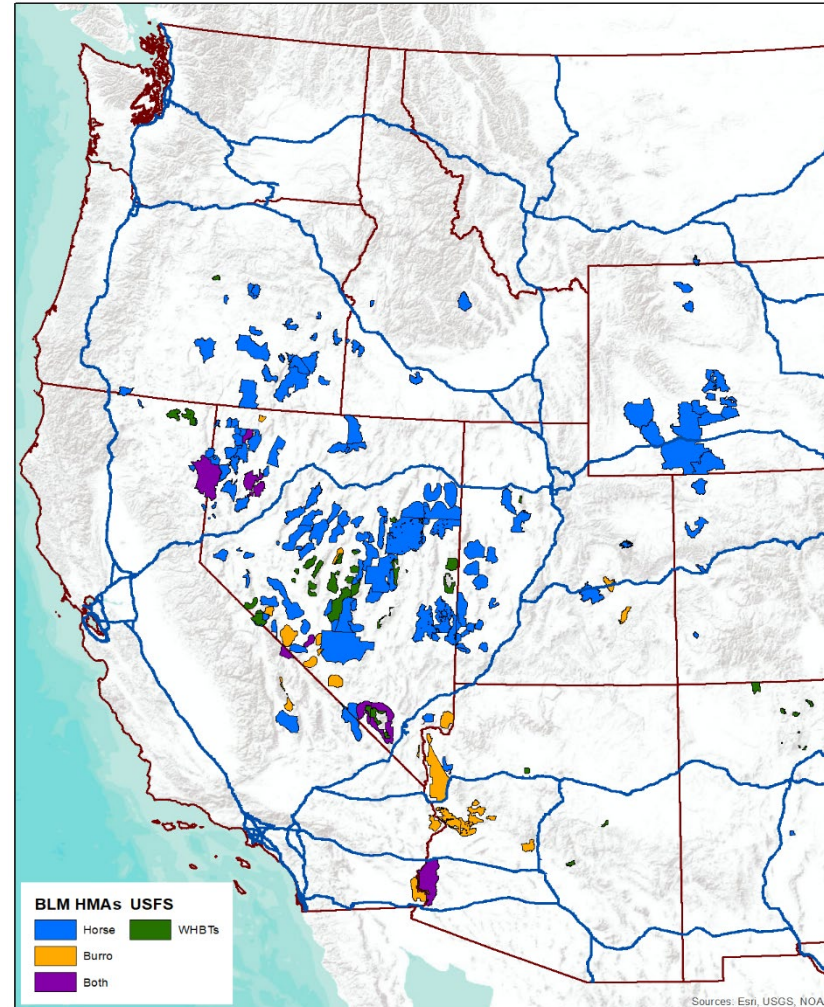
**Free Roaming Equids  
and Ecosystem  
Sustainability Network**



# Wild Horse and Burro Program

## Program goals:

- Healthy wild horses and burros on healthy public rangelands
- Protect health and welfare of animals and the public lands
- Care for and place excess animals into good homes



Map of Bureau of Land Management and Forest Service wild horse and burro management areas on public lands 2

# Overpopulation Effects

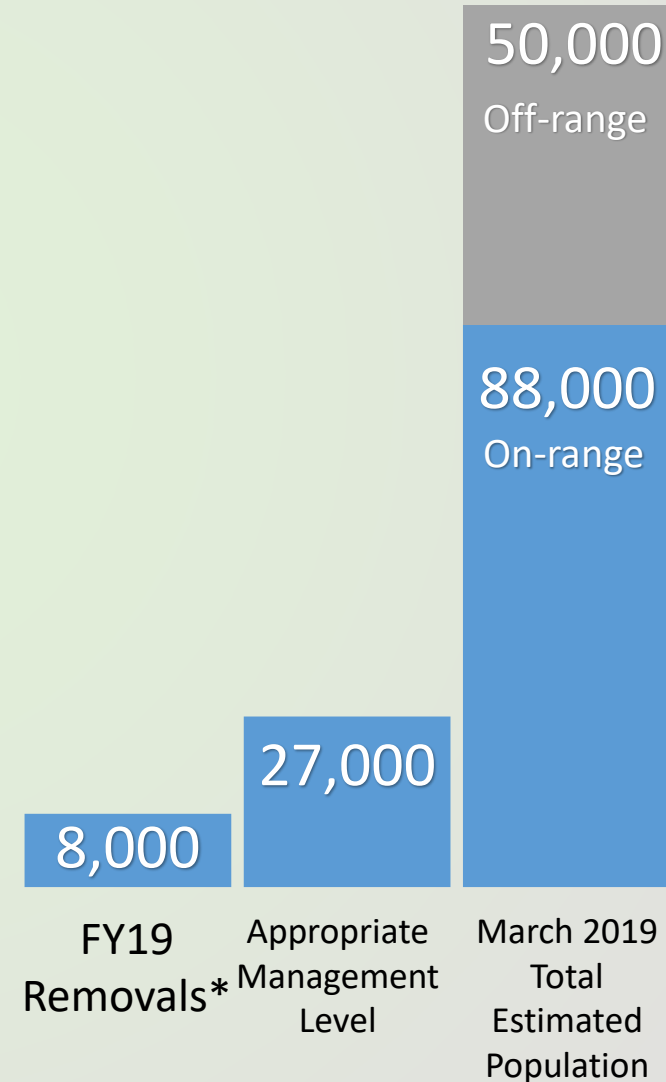
- Impacts to soil, vegetation and wildlife habitat
- Herd health is put at risk when overpopulation is allowed to persist.
- Moving out of designated management areas, onto private land and public highways
- Affecting other land users such as hunters and livestock permittees as well as the economic viability of small western communities





# Herd Overpopulation

- Overpopulation at record level since 1971
- BLM nearly tripled removals in FY18 over previous years and plans for 8,000 in FY19, though more needs to be done
- On-range pop exceeds AML by >60,000 animals
- Only 31 (17.5%) of all 177 herds are within AML

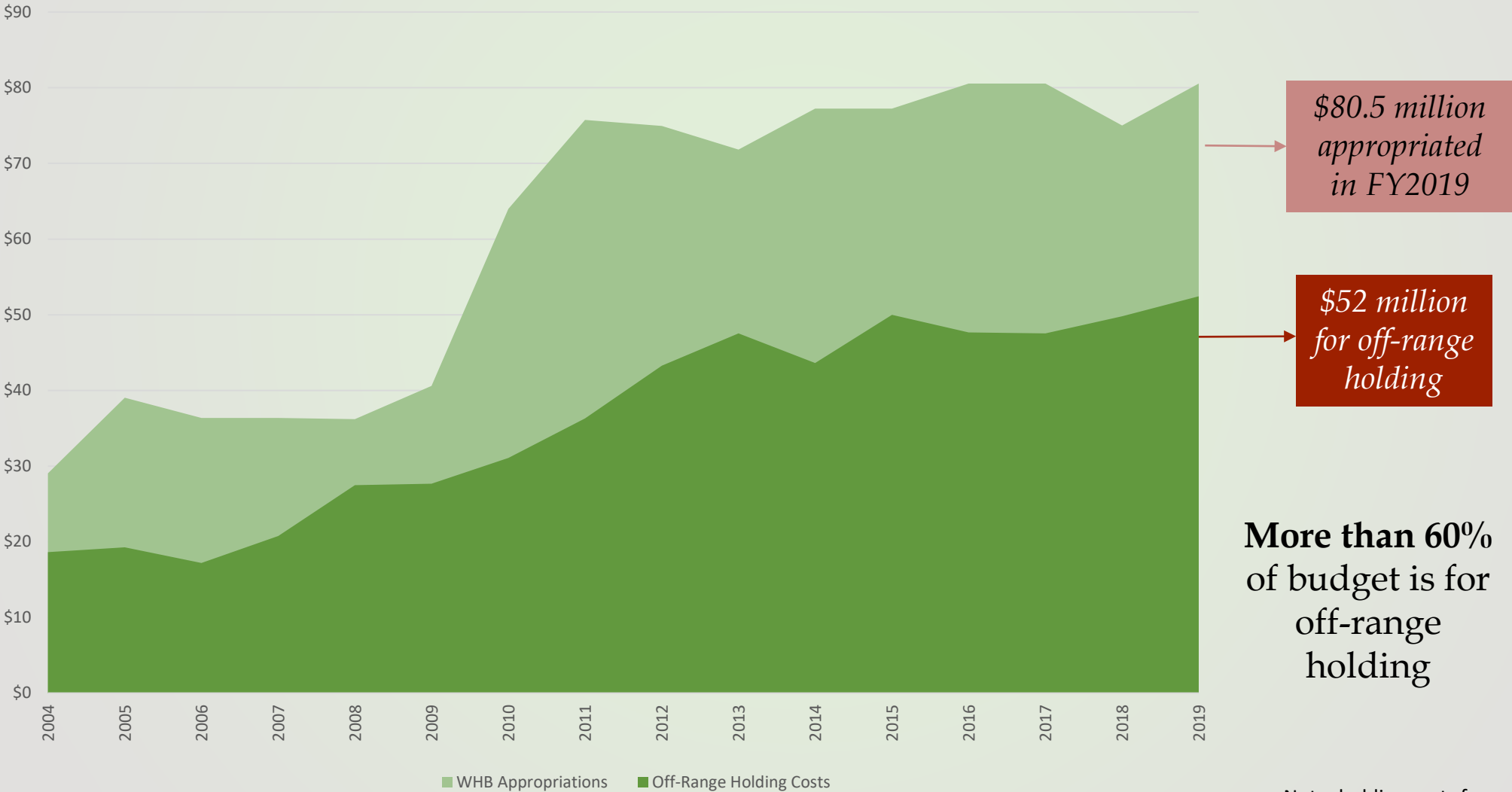


On-range estimates as of March 1, 2019

Off-range inventory as of April, 2019

\*Anticipated removals

# High Off-Range Costs



**More than 60%**  
of budget is for  
off-range  
holding

Note: holding costs for  
FY19 are preliminary

# WHB PROGRAM RESET

## Phase I – On Range WHB

- Reduce all horse and burro populations to the **low end** of AML on all HMA's
- All areas outside of designated HMA's zeroed out by complete and total removal (including all future years).
- 60,000 animals transferred from rangelands to Off-Range facilities



### Actual Cost for long term care at current WHB Numbers

107,000 Animals x \$1,040 = \$111 million annually

Holding cost to year 2039 (20 years) ≈ \$2.2 Billion

*The cost of rangeland degradation by WHB to society is unknown but is likely more staggering than mere holding costs estimated here*

# WHB PROGRAM RESET

## Phase II – Off-Range WHB

### **Private Public Partnerships**

- Tax credits would provide funding for care of animals by private entities
- Any US tax payer could provide funding through a charitable contribution
- Business tax credits could be either refundable or non-refundable
- Tax Credits sunset in 20+/- years with attrition of animals by natural death



# Public/Private Partnership Benefits

- Shifts majority of the burden from BLM (govt.) to private sector
- Opens BLM off-range short term holding facilities to allow for necessary gathers of excess horses in emergency and non-emergency situations
- Increases BLM's ability to manage on-range populations
- Avoids unlimited sale and euthanizing excess animals –**Socially acceptable and politically feasible**

**Inaction is a choice  
Resulting in unacceptable consequences**



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