



CONGRESS OF THE UNITED STATES
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
WASHINGTON, D.C.

May 24, 2023

Traci Stone-Manning
Director
Bureau of Land Management
1849 C Street NW
Washington, DC 20240

Dear Director Stone-Manning,

I am writing to express my concerns about the Bureau of Land Management's use of helicopters during taxpayer-funded wild horse roundups.

In efforts to control equine populations, the Bureau of Land Management (BLM) is currently directed to "humanely capture" wild free-roaming horses and burros and set them up for adoption. To assist in the round-up, or "gathering", of wild horses and burros, BLM contracts directly with private enterprises, including helicopter companies, to round up equines over prolonged distances creating situations that are frightening and sometimes deadly to the animals.

Since the beginning of fiscal year 2006, BLM's round-up contracts have sent at least \$57.4 million in taxpayer dollars to helicopter companies, including at least \$6.5 million since the beginning of fiscal year 2022 alone.

In January 2022, during a gathering at the Pancake Complex in central Nevada, a young colt was chased for miles by a helicopter, ultimately gravely injuring itself and necessitating the animal be put down. Sadly, it is not alone. Over the entire 2022 roundup season, a total of 120 horses were killed.

Scientific research shows that more humane and cost-effective alternatives exist to control equine populations, including fertility controls like the Porcine Zona Pellucida (PZP) vaccine. The BLM's Wild Horse and Burro Program, however, currently spends less than one percent of its budget on fertility controls.

I respectfully request that BLM eliminate the use of helicopters in wild horse gathers and explore opportunities for utilizing alternative aircraft and traditional cowboys for these purposes. Not only will this advance BLM's directive to humanely capture and protect wild horses and burros, but it will also generate workforce opportunities and significant savings to taxpayers.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Dina Titus".

Dina Titus
Member of Congress