



1301 Pennsylvania Ave. NW, Suite 300 • Washington, D.C. 20004

## **Public Lands Council**

July 9, 2010

The Honorable Ken Salazar  
Secretary of Interior  
1849 C Street NW  
Washington, DC 20240

Dear Secretary Salazar:

As representatives of federal lands ranchers across the west, the Public Lands Council (PLC) requests an extended comment period for your recent proposal, “Draft Goals, Objectives and Possible Management Actions”, for the Wild Horse & Burro Program. Additionally, we request that listening sessions be held in rural areas throughout the west to develop a comprehensive solution.

Since 1968, PLC has represented public lands ranchers who know well the problems presented by wild horse and burro overpopulation. These individuals, whose livelihoods are directly impacted by wild horse and burro management, deserve the opportunity to be an integral part of the decision-making process. Their firsthand experience makes them particularly qualified to submit comments and ideas on solutions to a horse and burro program that has led to overgrazing, economic hardship, and unhealthy populations.

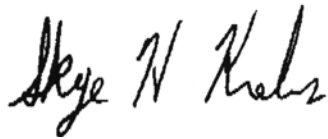
We greatly appreciate the Department’s efforts to address the wild horse and burro problem, and would ask that the 60-day comment period, due to expire August 3, 2010, be extended another 60 days. This will allow ranchers, busy with the business of stewarding the land and animals we depend upon, the chance to give their valuable input.

We also propose that holding local public comment meetings in rural areas would provide an excellent source of information to BLM officials. The June 14<sup>th</sup> meeting held in Denver, Colorado was a good start; however, many of our members find it impossible to spend the time and resources to travel such a distance. Holding meetings in areas where wild horse and burro overpopulation is a real concern would allow for insights from individuals dealing firsthand with this program.

Any effort to make the input process more inclusive for our public lands ranchers would be of great benefit to the formulation of a management plan. We suggest that supplying a mailing address for comments would be one way to accomplish this, as a certain percentage of our members do not regularly use the internet.

Thank you for the consideration of our request. Given localized meetings, an extended comment period, and additional avenues for providing input, we are sure that our members will provide you with invaluable insight and suggestions for your proposed plan.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Skye N Krebs". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large, stylized 'S' and 'K'.

Skye Krebs  
President  
Public Lands Council