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Comments: AS A REMINDER:

Wild Free-Roaming Horses and Burros Act

In 1971, Congress enacted the Wild Free-Roaming Horses and Burros Act ("WHA") out of concern that wild horses were "disappearing from the American scene." 16 U.S.C. § 1331. Declaring that "wild horses are living symbols of the historic and pioneer spirit of the West," and "contribute to the diversity of life forms within the Nation and enrich the lives of the American people," Congress directed that wild horses "shall be protected from capture, branding, harassment, [and] death" and "be considered in the area where presently found, as an integral part of the natural system of the public lands." *Id.* To implement that mandate, Congress declared that USFS shall "protect and manage wild free-roaming horses and burros as components of the public lands," and provided that "[a]ll management activities shall be at the minimal feasible level." 16 U.S.C. § 1333(a).