

## HOUSE JOINT RESOLUTION NO. HJ0003

Free-roaming wild horses.

Sponsored by: Select Federal Natural Resource Management Committee

## A JOINT RESOLUTION

for

1 A JOINT RESOLUTION requesting Congress, state and local  
2 authorities to take action to remediate damages caused by  
3 free-roaming wild horses on rangelands in the West and to  
4 develop effective fertility control methods to reduce the  
5 populations of free-roaming wild horses in the West.

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7 WHEREAS, the federal Bureau of Land Management (BLM)  
8 estimates that almost fifty thousand (50,000) wild horses  
9 roam BLM managed rangelands in the West, with nearly three  
10 thousand (3,000) of those wild horses, the majority of  
11 which descend from animals turned out by ranchers, roaming  
12 public rangelands in Wyoming; and

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14 WHEREAS, free-roaming wild horses have virtually no natural  
15 predators in Wyoming nor the West and BLM evidence suggests

1 the population of wild horses can double in size about  
2 every four (4) years if left uncontrolled; and

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4 WHEREAS, BLM estimates that the current free-roaming  
5 population of wild horses significantly exceeds the number  
6 that can exist in healthy balance with other public  
7 rangeland resources and uses, including wildlife and  
8 domestic livestock grazing; and

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10 WHEREAS, free-roaming wild horses, among other things,  
11 trample and destroy vegetation, hard-pack soil, over-graze  
12 and decimate riparian areas causing degradation in areas  
13 that provide important habitat for native species such as  
14 pronghorn, mule deer, bighorn sheep and sage grouse; and

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16 WHEREAS, the number of free-roaming wild horses removed  
17 from public rangelands in the West by BLM in compliance  
18 with the Wild Free-Roaming Horses and Burros Act of 1971,  
19 now far exceeds the number of wild horses adopted or sold;  
20 and

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22 WHEREAS, those wild horses not adopted by the public are  
23 held in long-term pastures or short-term corrals costing

1     BLM nationally an estimated fifty-eight million dollars  
2     (\$58,000,000.00) per year; and

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4     WHEREAS, evidence suggests the development and use of  
5     effective fertility control methods can limit the  
6     populations of free-roaming wild horses, lessen the need to  
7     remove free-roaming wild horses from the state's  
8     rangelands, improve the health of the rangelands in the  
9     West, conserve wildlife habitat and save taxpayers money.

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11     *NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE MEMBERS OF THE*  
12     *LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF WYOMING:*

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14                 **Section 1.** That the Wyoming Legislature calls on  
15     Congress and federal agencies to fund and support efforts  
16     to manage free-roaming wild horses on rangelands in the  
17     West while at the same time protecting the rangeland  
18     resources and uses.

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20                 **Section 2.** That the Wyoming Legislature calls on  
21     Congress in conjunction with all appropriate state and  
22     local governments to engage in cooperative efforts to  
23     remediate and minimize the environmental impact of free-

1 roaming wild horses on rangelands in the West. These  
2 efforts should include the development and use of effective  
3 fertility control methods to reduce the free-roaming  
4 populations of wild horses on rangelands in the West.

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6       **Section 3.** That the Secretary of State of Wyoming  
7 transmit copies of this resolution to the President of the  
8 United States, to the President of the Senate and the  
9 Speaker of the House of Representatives of the United  
10 States Congress and to the Wyoming Congressional  
11 Delegation.

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(END)