

Dear National Wild Horse & Burro Advisory Board,

I am writing to urgently request that you take action to oppose the use of helicopters in wild horse and burro roundups. These stressful and cruel gatherings cause immense suffering and excessive fatalities among these majestic creatures.

This summer, the nonprofit animal protection organization Lady Freethinker sent an observer to document the North Lander Complex roundup in Wyoming. They witnessed harrowing scenes of horses terrorized and relentlessly pursued by low-flying helicopters. In this roundup alone, 16 horses died.

The Bureau of Land Management's gather reports indicate that in fiscal year 2024 at least 131 wild horses and burros have died in helicopter roundups.

Many of the deaths resulted from severe injuries including snapped necks and broken bones, while others perished from the immense stress of being captured. These figures do not account for horses who were slaughtered after being adopted through the Adoption Incentive Program and sold at livestock auctions.

Our iconic wild horses deserve better than to be chased, separated from their families, and subjected to such inhumane treatment. It is imperative that the BLM put an end to these cruel helicopter roundups immediately.

Thank you for your consideration of this urgent matter.